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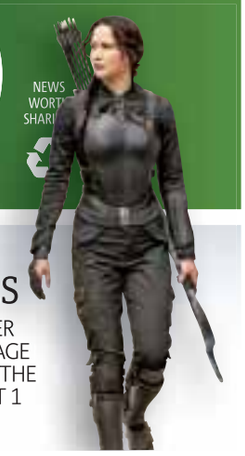

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Premier Greg Selinger speaks to media on Thursday after the throne speech. SARAH TAYLOR/CHRISD.CA

Small promises from the throne

Measured pledges. Manitoba legislature kicks off fall sitting with speech touching on students, highways and infrastructure

Premier Greg Selinger is promising new help for post-secondary students, a faster highway speed limit and new restrictions on tanning beds in his NDP government's throne speech.

But amid a caucus revolt, it is unclear whether Selinger will be around to see the promises through to fruition.

The 21-page throne speech offers small, measured promises that Selinger said are supported by his 35 fellow NDP legislature members.

"You'd have to ask caucus that," Selinger said Thursday when asked whether he had the support of his caucus.

"What do you think?" a reporter asked.

"Yes," the premier quickly replied.

The premier said the promises are affordable and will not derail the government's promise to wipe out the deficit by the 2016-17 fiscal year. There are some cost-cutting measures in the throne speech, such as a plan to reduce the amount of leased office space by 9,290 square metres.

The throne speech kicks off a short two-week fall sitting in which Selinger leads a divided caucus. But he said the throne speech paves a way forward for the province.

"Mantobans have told us they want to see investments in infrastructure and more opportunities for young people while providing front-line services to families. This throne speech embraces that vision."

Some speech highlights:

• Student loans will be offered interest-free.

• More courses will be offered online and more post-secondary credits will be available in high school.

• People under 18 will be banned from using tanning beds.

• The speed limit on the Trans-Canada Highway 1 will be raised to 110 km/h from the Saskatchewan boundary to Winnipeg.

• A new, higher bridge will be built at Morris to reduce flooding on Highway 75.

• A new law will provide benefits for first responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

• A new agency will promote energy efficiency, separate from Manitoba Hydro.

• A new law will crack down on zebra mussels and protect Lake Winnipeg.

• The government will cut costs by reducing 9,290 square metres in office space.

• A new law will require veterinarians to disclose the full price of their services beforehand. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

For more on the throne speech, see page 3

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NDP rebels support throne speech, but Pallister does not

No rebel alliance.
MLAs say they will not side with Tories

MLAs who are nicknamed "the rebel five" made it clear Thursday they will support the provincial throne speech and not vote with the Opposition Progressive Conservatives in a non-confidence motion planned for next week.

"I'm a New Democrat, I was elected as a New Democrat and certainly I will vote with the government," said Theresa Oswald, one of the former cabinet ministers who is widely seen as a potential leadership candidate.

So far, none of the rebels has declared a leadership bid, but Oswald left the door open Thursday when she was asked whether she will run.

"If anyone were to ask me my advice about whether or not they should run in any sort of a leadership construct, I would advise them that you would want to absolutely know what the rules and parameters are of that contest. That's really all that I can say about that now."

Selinger has stressed the government continues to function as usual despite the internal turmoil. But the caucus split has brought about several changes.

The former ministers took up new seats in the legislature chamber Thursday, further away from the premier. Their offices have been moved out of the NDP section of the legislature to a different wing. They remain caucus members, but are not allowed to attend caucus meetings or have any input. Selinger has struck a caucus committee to look for "a path" for the rebels to regain full privileges.

The five former ministers entered the chamber as a group Thursday, wearing the same orange corsage. It was noticeably different from the white-and-orange arrangement other New Democrats wore. Corsages are a tradition on throne speech day.

"Just because of the nature of our agreement with caucus and so forth, we just weren't on the same ordering plan, but we got the same colour scheme," Oswald said.

The Manitoba Speech From The Throne is read at the Manitoba Legislature Thursday. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Opposition Leader Brian Pallister said the throne speech did nothing to address key economic challenges facing Manitoba. He said he planned to introduce a non-confidence motion to try to bring down the government, as early as Monday, and hoped that the NDP rebels would join him.

"We'll give the unofficial opposition in the NDP the opportunity to join us in expressing their concerns about the lack of appropriate leadership and direction within the government," Pallister said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bowman and Chief city's new power couple

Mayor Brian Bowman talks to media, while Minister Kevin Chief listens. COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

It's Winnipeg's hottest new bromance, and it has the potential to shape the direction of the city for years to come.

Mayor Brian Bowman and Minister Kevin Chief, fresh off an appearance together at Tuesday's Jets game, walked out of Thursday's throne speech side-by-side with a shared message about co-operation and a commitment to modernize the key piece of legislation that governs how the city does business.

"The mayor and I knew each other before all this, so we're able to hit the ground running," explained Chief, who is the minister responsible for the City of Winnipeg.

The speech included a pledge to participate in Bowman's proposed new infrastructure partnership, and a promise to update the City of Winnipeg Charter to strengthen accountability and transparency.

"The mayor talks a lot about making Winnipeg one of the most accountable and transparent governments in the nation," said Chief. "We signalled strongly in the throne speech that we want to work together on that."

Chief wouldn't say whether the charter changes might also include additional taxation powers for the city.

"I'm really pleased the province is willing to work with us on the Build Winnipeg Partnership," added Bowman.

COLIN FAST/FOR METRO

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Canada Reads gets a new face

Ghomeshi out.
Journalist/hip-hop artist replacing scandal-plagued ex-CBC personality as host of literary competition

The new face of CBC's Canada Reads, Winnipeg journalist and hip-hop artist Wab Kinew, says he doesn't think the sexual assault allegations against former host Jian Ghomeshi will be dealt with directly on the show as it isn't "really relevant to the discussion about books."

But he doesn't think it makes sense to ignore the scandal, either, so he's encouraging listeners and viewers to go to the website and nominate books for the annual literary competition that deal with subject matter surrounding the controversy.

"We're looking for 15 books to form a long list and what I would say to people is: 'All right, pick the books that are going to make us have a conversation about the underlying issues, about the ongoing issues, that are raised by this controversy,'" Kinew said in a telephone interview before being revealed as the new host late Wednesday evening.

"Our theme this year is 'A Book to Break Barriers,' so suggest some books that are going to have us talk about gender violence, sexual violence, discrimination against women, sexual harassment in all forms.

"I think that's the best way we can engage with it on-air."

Launched in 2001, Canada Reads is a week-long contest in which five Canadian personalities each select a homegrown book — either fiction or non-fiction — they believe all Canucks should read. They then defend their choices in a series of debates that air on the public broadcaster's radio, TV and online platforms. The books are eliminated one by one until a winner is declared.

Ghomeshi was host of the special until the CBC fired him on Oct. 26.

Kinew, who hosted the CBC documentary series 8th Fire, said the next Canada Reads instalment will happen in March. He signed on as host because he enjoyed his experience last year, in which he got to debate personalities including activist Stephen Lewis, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations.

"I think it's an awesome show and the rationale for wanting to host it is the same," he said. "It's something I think is uniquely Canadian, that we actually have a reality show about books and we can have a show that's a one-time celebration of literature but on another level is a forum to have some pretty deep conversations about big societal issues."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spotlight on homegrown talent

2001

The year that Canada Reads was launched

Wab Kinew is the new face behind Canada Reads. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An 'Intelligent' idea

A city councillor would like to see Winnipeg emulate an Ohio municipality and celebrate a prestigious title.

Coun. Brian Mayes (St. Vital) said what he saw during a visit to Columbus, Ohio, back in the spring pairs up nicely with Mayor Brian Bowman's support of a downtown area dubbed "Innovation Alley."

Near Columbus city hall, Mayes saw an honorary street sign that read "Top 7 Intelligent Community Way."

"It occurred to me that Winnipeg is also one of the seven cities named as intelligent communities," said Mayes, who travelled to Columbus on city business to take a closer look at their City Year youth program.

"We should be doing something to celebrate that we're identified as one of the intelligent communities."

Back in January, the Intelligent Communities Forum named Winnipeg one of the seven finalists for the title of intelligent community.

Mayes said he plans to ask the public service for a report on this idea during Thursday's meeting of the committee he now chairs, downtown development.

"The Forum talks about blending technology and arts, and economic sustainability, so that's also something I think we're trying to do now" as a new council, said Mayes, adding that he's open to suggestions such as a signpost or another representation.

"We should be reminding people we're making progress on this."

Mayes said he informed the mayor's office on his initiative and they're also looking forward to the administrative report. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Brian Mayes would like to see a sign in Winnipeg like this one he photographed in Columbus celebrating the title of "Top 7 Intelligent Community." COURTESY BRIAN MAYES

Rinelle Harper meets one of her rescuers

'Left for dead.' Men found 16-year-old battered, bruised under downtown bridge near Assiniboine River Nov. 8

A 16-year-old Manitoba teen who was viciously beaten, assaulted and left to die beside a river has met one of the men who rescued her.

Rinelle Harper gave Sean Vincent a soapstone sculpture of a polar bear and a painting from her First Nation, at a downtown Winnipeg hotel on Thursday.

Rinelle, who didn't speak at the meeting and appeared embarrassed by all the attention, looked down and fiddled with her hair.

Her family hugged Vincent and thanked him for being there when Rinelle needed him most. Vincent and another construction worker found a battered and bruised Rinelle under a downtown bridge near the Assiniboine River on the morning of Nov. 8. They covered her with their coats, called 911 and waited with her until paramedics arrived.

"The family wanted to meet the gentlemen, give them thanks and present them with a couple of gifts," said Grand Chief David Harper, a relative who has been helping the family.

Rinelle was discharged from hospital a week ago.

Police have said Rinelle was out with friends celebrating the completion of her midterms the night of Nov. 7. The teen from the northern reserve of Garden Hill was studying at a boarding school for aboriginal students in Winnipeg.

She got separated from her friends and struck up a conversation with two men. The three walked to the Assiniboine River where police say Rinelle was attacked and ended up in the frigid water. She managed to crawl out upstream, but was attacked again and "left for dead," police said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Roundtable

There are plans for Rinelle to address the meeting of the Assembly of First Nations in Winnipeg next month when the group elects a new leader and discusses plans for a roundtable on missing and murdered aboriginal women.

A nighttime view of Winnipeg's Disraeli Active Transportation bridge.
BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Peg Survey. Majority feel safe walking alone at night

The majority of Winnipeggers say that walking alone at night doesn't make them nervous — but the numbers are still down from last year.

Data complied by data tracking organization Peg shows that 73 per cent of Winnipeggers feel safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood at night. However, in 2013, those numbers were at 82 per cent.

Winnipeggers shouldn't read too much into the trend, says the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

"Though Winnipeggers' perceived safety has varied from year to year, the overall trend is stable," reads a statement from IISD.

The data is compiled yearly from the City of Winnipeg's Citizen Survey, and the question about safety has been asked eight times over the past 13 years, said Peg.

The worst year was in 2012, which stood at 61 per cent.

"Perceived safety is an important indicator of people's comfort within their neighbourhoods. Research shows it can affect behaviour, including the activities they take part in, their mode of transportation, and places they go," said Peg.

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Crime

Restaurant robber sought

A robber hit a restaurant in the 1000 block of Notre Dame Avenue around 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday night. The suspect is described as male, about five-foot-six, with a skinny-medium build. He was wearing a black hoodie, dark pants and a black neck warmer covering his face. METRO

Three arrested after B&E spree

Three suspects are in custody after a short break-in spree in the West End early Wednesday morning.

Around 2:30 a.m., two men and a woman broke the windows on four vehicles in the 500 block of Maryland Avenue, and stole several tools from a pick-up truck. Next they tried to break into a nearby residence, but the commotion alerted the homeowners who called police.

Upon arrival, officers spotted the suspects in the rear lane, and arrested two of them after a brief pursuit. The third suspect was arrested a short time later after trying to break into a residence in the 600 block of Sherbrook Street.

Police also recovered two stolen vehicles that were used in the crimes.

Vincent Michael Martel, 22, Lincoln Ross, 24, and Miranda Pascal, 22, all from Winnipeg, are facing a number of charges. METRO

Two dozen vehicle windows smashed

The search continues for a man suspected of smashing the glass on several vehicles in the Crescentwood area early Wednesday morning.

Shortly after 1:30 a.m., police responded to the 1000 block of Garwood Street for a report of the sound of glass breaking. A lone man wearing dark clothing was seen leaving the area.

A search for the suspect by officers and two canine units was unsuccessful, but police did find 24 vehicles that had been damaged in the area between Academy Road, Stafford Street, Garwood Street and Wilton Street. METRO

Winnipeg a bad choice for business investment: Study

'Bewildering' property taxes.
High PST also said tom hurt business growth

COLIN FAST
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Manitoba's "bewildering" property tax system and high provincial sales tax are making Winnipeg one of the least attractive major cities in Canada for business investment, according to a new study.

The C.D. Howe Institute examined the overall tax burden of 10 Canadian cities, and found Winnipeg ranked sixth overall, with a marginal effective tax rate that's well above the national average.

"If you look at Winnipeg compared to Calgary or Saskatoon, it has very high business taxes which put it at a competitive disadvantage," said Benjamin Dachis, one of the study's co-authors.

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce says the city's tax structure is a critical issue. / SHANE GIBSON/METRO

In addition to traditional metrics for business competitiveness, such as federal and provincial income taxes, the C.D. Howe study also considered the impact of land transfer and property taxes.

"Winnipeg has one of the most bewildering property tax systems in the country," said Dachis, referring to the mix of taxes and credits that fund part of the education system in this province.

He also said Winnipeg is one of the only cities in Canada still charging a business tax, and noted Manitoba has the highest PST rate of any province that hasn't harmonized with the GST (harmonization provides tax breaks for business).

A spokesman for the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce said ensuring businesses get value for their taxes is a critical issue.

"Ultimately what we're looking for is a commitment to competitiveness and a plan to get us there," said Loren Remillard. "We are falling further behind, which really speaks to our ability to attract creative professionals."

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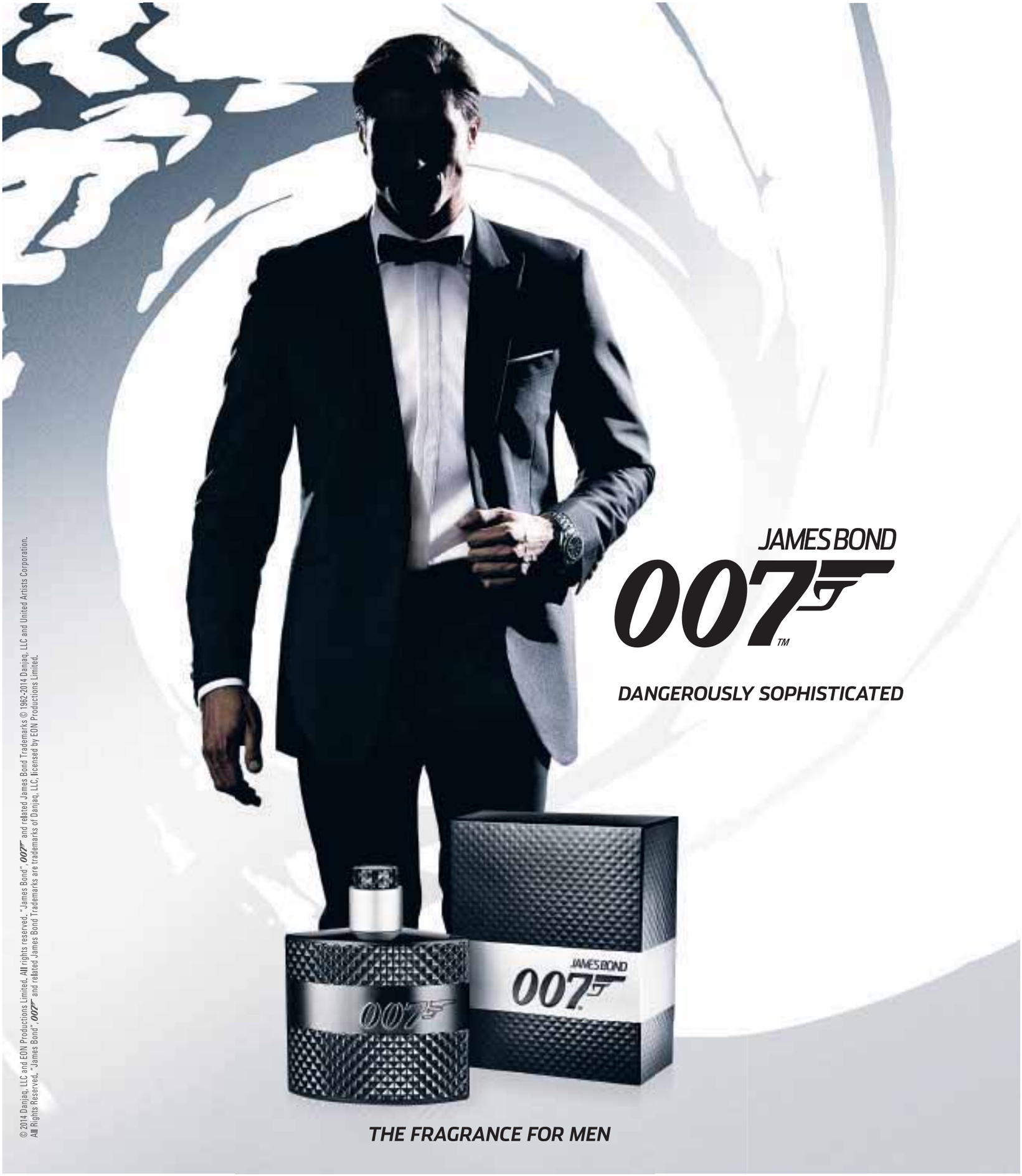

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Brandon soldier with PTSD turns to art to heal from Afghanistan

Bearing wounds.
Woman launches art program at Military Family Resource Centre to help other soldiers and veterans heal

STEPHANIE TAYLOR
winnipeg@metronews.ca

When 20-year-old Jessica Wiebe returned from her tour in Afghanistan in September 2008, she had no words.

Diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, it seemed that no amount of support from friends and family could help her open up. After all, how could anyone from back home ever understand what those six months living — and fighting — in Kandahar were like, said Wiebe, who is now 26.

"Most of what I've dealt with is not knowing how to deal with my experience," she said.

That's when the Brandon native, who grew up with a passion for drawing and painting, turned to art.

"I reached for art and when I started expressing myself, the healing kind of went along with it," she said.

Wiebe, who is currently in her final year of studies in Halifax, is exhibiting nearly 50 of her drawings and paintings in a show called Bearing Arms, B(e)aring Wounds at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax.

"I never meant for a lot of this work to be shown in a public space," she said, adding that all of the work in the show was created over the past seven years and visualizes her personal healing.

From black-and-white drawings of soldiers sitting together and reading, to collages of pencil-sketched barbed wire fences and tanks next to Wiebe's own words, the works envision the war through the eyes of a solider.

"There are some things that I do want to keep personal, but there's a lot I'm exposing," said Wiebe. "I'm exposing those vulnerabilities of being a human being in a war zone."

She recently launched an art program at the Military Family Resource Centre in Halifax to help soldiers and veterans, many of whom also suffer from PTSD, use art to help their healing process.

Wiebe plans to continue working with soldiers after she graduates, with tentative plans to visit different army bases to host sketching workshops. She one day hopes to pitch the idea of an art program to the military.

Jessica Wiebe, inset, was diagnosed with PTSD after her tour in Afghanistan and turned to art to help her heal.
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Conservatory gets into holiday spirit

The Assiniboine Park Conservatory is getting into the holiday spirit this year.

The conservatory is launching its first ever Home for the Holidays Show on Friday, and crews have been busy filling the Palm House with new horticultural displays inspired by the classic children's novel Around the World in 80 Days.

"This is a new thing for us and we're hoping it really takes off," said Alison August of the Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

The ticketed event runs until Jan. 4 and planned activities include children's programming, choir performances, movies, music and more.

Admission is $9.95 for adults, $7.95 for seniors (over 60 years of age) and children under 18 years of age, and free for kids under three.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Online

For more information, visit assiniboinepark.ca.

Gardener Louise Durham puts the finishing touches on Priya, an elephant built from natural cork and various plants, which is part of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory's inaugural Home for the Holidays Show opening Nov. 21.
SHANE GIBSON/METRO

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Disciplinary committee

Manitoba judge asks photos culled from evidence

A senior Manitoba judge is asking Federal Court to block a disciplinary committee from viewing graphic sexual photographs her husband took of her. The stay ruling would be in effect until the courts can decide whether the pictures should be admitted as evidence.

A judicial committee is slated to start disciplinary proceedings against Associate Chief Justice Lori Douglas within days. One allegation she faces is that the photographs — posted on the Internet without her consent — are "demeaning to women."

Her lawyer says the committee doesn't need to see them to do its job.

The committee's independent counsel says the panel does need to view the photographs to decide on Douglas's future. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Great Slave Lake

Plane forced to land on lake ice in bad weather

A small passenger plane with seven people on board made a forced landing in bad weather on the ice of Great Slave Lake on Thursday.

A military spokesman said the Air Tindi Cessna 208 Caravan declared an emergency when its engine quit after leaving Yellowknife. "There is an Air Tindi aircraft out of Yellowknife that has declared a mayday because the engine quit in icy conditions, seven people on board," said Capt. Jean Houde of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

"Right now we know that the aircraft managed to land on ice west of Yellowknife." Houde said a C-130 Hercules aircraft with search-and-rescue technicians on board was on its way to the area from Winnipeg. The airline said the seven people are safe. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students offer cookies to protest lack of counselling

University of Winnipeg student protesters Rebecca Ward and Sarah Maher (right) hand out cookies while university staffers (left) distribute pamphlets outlining the health services the U of W offers. AUSTIN GRABISH/METRO

Bake off. University of Winnipeg counters by giving out its own cookies and pamphlets

The University of Winnipeg fired back at student protesters who have been handing out cookies to anyone who calls the school demanding it provide more general counsellors, by handing out its own cookies.

The university's F(un) Class, an on-campus activism group, has been protesting since Monday. The group said it's unfair the U of W has just one general counsellor to serve its student population of roughly 10,000. Its members handed out cookies and coffee to anyone who promised to call the administration and complain about the lack of access.

Thursday, at least four U of W staffers began handing out cookies of their own and pamphlets outlining the health services the university offers. An official at the university said staff were handing out cookies with their information as "part of our ongoing student outreach." Protester Jesse Blackman said it's ridiculous students have to wait up to six weeks to get help. "People are outraged there's this wait time."

Former student Joey Dearborn said he was told he would have to go off-campus to see someone about his anxiety and stress issues. "It's frustrating because you're in that situation and you're looking for someone to talk to and there's no one there," Dearborn said.

But Jeremy Read, U of W's senior executive officer said, the university is providing counselling services.

He said the university has hired an intake worker who assesses and refers students, and noted the university has brought mental health clinicians and addictions workers to campus. AUSTIN GRABISH/METRO WINNIPEG

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SAVE BIG!

Agape Table volunteer Eleanor Moore gets a veggie platter ready for the not-for-profit's children's program Thursday morning. Agape Table is making a public plea for more volunteers. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Agape Table's in need of volunteers

Help wanted. Not-for-profit is looking for volunteers to help with its various programs

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Agape Table executive director Martina Richter spent Thursday morning scrambling to find warm clothing for a homeless man who nearly had frozen to death through the night after being robbed of his jacket, sleeping bag and tent the previous evening.

Meanwhile 250 hungry people were streaming through the not-for-profit's daily breakfast service, and all this on a day Richter was supposed to be organizing an open house to encourage more volunteers to come give Agape Table a hand.

"Volunteers are crucial to everything we do," Richter told Metro after tracking down a winter jacket for the man. "Because when stuff like this happens today, I'm grateful that we have extra staff so I can step away to provide help to people that need it."

Agape Table does not receive government funding and estimates they need roughly 1,080 volunteer hours a month to run their various services, which as well as the breakfast include a low-cost grocery store, an emergency food bank and a special nutrition program for preschoolers and their families.

Quoted

"Volunteers are crucial to everything we do."

Martina Richter, executive director for Agape Table

While they do have groups and organizations that drop by periodically to help, they're always looking for people who can stop by on a more regular basis.

"Every day, we're short people," explained Richter, who said donations of cash, food, clothing and toiletries are always needed, too. "This is about the community helping the community."

For more information on what you can do to help go to agapetable.ca.

Anti-violence activist says he was attacked

A community activist and noted local speaker says he was not seriously hurt after he and a friend were confronted on Selkirk Avenue, where he regularly holds anti-violence and neighbourhood-strengthening meetings.

Michael Redhead Champagne said in a blog post Thursday that he and a female friend were walking on Selkirk Avenue Wednesday night when they were approached by two men, one aboriginal and one white.

Redhead Champagne said the pair began to taunt him and his friend. "As we tried getting away, IDs were dropped. I went to scoop them up, but one of the guys kicked me right in the mouth," he writes.

The pair then ran off. Redhead Champagne and his friend went to a local Robins Donuts, where staff helped him clean up and call family.

A screenshot of Michael Redhead Champagne's blog showing his injuries after being attacked. SCREENGRAB

Redhead Champagne said the incident has been reported to police. However, he said the answer is not to overreact.

"Let's remember we can't solve violence with more violence," he wrote, adding the incident reminds him of the uphill battle he faces.

Redhead Champagne is the founder of Meet Me at the Bell Tower, a weekly meeting of citizens on Selkirk Avenue to discuss anti-violence and community issues. The event is celebrating its third anniversary on Friday evening, and all are welcome to attend. METRO

November 21

Annual police vs. firefighter hockey game

Former Toronto Maple Leaf Doug Gilmour is among the NHL greats taking part in this year's ABC Fire and Safety Guns vs. Hoses Charity Hockey game to raise money for charity. This year, the money raised will go to help an injured Winnipeg firefighter. Also taking part in the event are Winnipeg Jets legends Laurie Boschman, Ab McDonald, and Joe Daley. The game is open to the public, and the puck drops at 7 p.m. at the MTS Ice Plex Nov. 21. METRO

1,000 hectares eligible

$1M going to compensate flooded farmers

Manitoba farmers who were flooded this summer are to receive just over $1 million in compensation.

The government says 1,000 hectares of land around the Portage Diversion will be eligible for compensation. Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn says the province used the diversion to manage flood water coming from Saskatchewan. That meant agricultural land was flooded and Kostyshyn says the province will compensate farmers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pulford

Charges laid after alleged sexual assault: Report

A Winnipeg media outlet says a former care worker is accused of sexually assaulting a disabled person in a Manitoba Interlake community.

Global News says Pulford Community Living Services confirms an employee was fired earlier this year when allegations of abuse against a male client surfaced. RCMP say three counts of sexual assault have been laid, based on alleged offences during the first four months of this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mayor hopeful likens failed project to WWII

A mayoral candidate's comment comparing the Winnipeg police headquarters project to the length of the Second World War caused waves on social media Thursday.

David Sanders, who had made a bid for mayor earlier this year after a couple of years of attending and speaking at city hall meetings, made his return to 510 Main St. for finance committee.

During his remarks to the members of the committee, Sanders said called the HQ project "ill-fated" and went on to say it started "with the acquisition of the former Canada Post building exactly five years ago," in 2009.

"It didn't take much longer than that to fight and win the whole Second World War," he added.

Several reporters attending the meeting tweeted Sanders' comment, causing many Twitter users to respond.

Luke Jacob Thiessen wrote, "Keep Calm and Blunder On," while Colin Corneau joked "And an equally expensive one."

But Sanders wasn't done, he also asked how it could be that a building constructed to such high standards not withstand a rainstorm.

"Is this just one more comedy of errors?" he asked.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Quoted

"It didn't take much longer than that to fight and win the whole Second World War."

David Sanders, former 2014 Winnipeg mayoral candidate, compared the ill-fated HQ project to the length of the Second World War.

Mayoral candidate David Sanders BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Coun. Marty Morantz, newly appointed finance committee chair, said it's not his "preference" to see reports added to the agenda late. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

No late reports: Finance chair

Decision delayed. Marty Morantz said members need 'ample time' to review agenda items

BERNICE PONTANILLA
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The members of the city's new finance committee were quick to put their own stamp on how meetings will be conducted.

On Thursday, the committee delayed to January a decision on a request from the auditor for $100,000 more to cover the numerous audits that were mandated by council.

Coun. Marty Morantz, newly-appointed chair of the finance committee, said after the meeting wrapped up that the auditor's report "came on very late" as an addendum.

"We didn't really have time to ask the questions that we wanted to ask of the public service before it came, so we wanted to lay it over to January to get more information as to why they're making that request," he said.

Items added to agendas the morning of meetings or walked-on during meetings under the previous council caused frustration among councillors, who often complained about it publicly.

Morantz said he'd like to see fewer last-minute agenda additions.

"This is my first experience in it, you know, it wasn't my preference to see the report come on so late," said Morantz.

The finance committee's agenda Thursday was full of progress reports on projects, including the Winnipeg police headquarters, which is not yet ready for officers after a rainstorm flooded the under-construction building this past August.

City officials said they're currently in the insurance claims process, but will be applying for an interim occupancy permit before Christmas. However, no move-in date has been set.

Quoted

"We didn't really have time to ask the questions that we wanted to askof the public service."

Councillor Marty Morantz, newly appointed chair of the finance committee.

Community's voice

City wants feedback on water bylaw

The City of Winnipeg is inviting residents to give their feedback on a new draft water bylaw.

The new bylaw strengthens the measures to protect the city's water system and the city's drinking water, states a news release. The bylaw would also increase fines for violations and establish basic standards.

A public meeting is set for Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m., at 420 Corydon Ave. Call 311 to RSVP. METRO

Program cut. Time-off program discontinued

It was their decision to make, a senior manager at the City of Winnipeg told councillors about the axing of an unpaid time off program for city staff.

Linda Burch, director of corporate support services, responded to a question during Thursday's finance meeting from Coun. Scott Gillingham on who had the authority to discontinue the voluntary furlough program: council or senior management?

Burch said that it was council who first implemented the program in 1997, but "it had to meet operational requirements."

"The senior management team did make that decision because at any time, we had various departments who would say, 'I can't meet operational requirements by allowing my staff to do this,' so we did have that decision to make, whether or not they were allowed to take the program," she said.

Finance committee chair Coun. Marty Morantz said he's "very interested" in seeing the program return: "In its worst year, it saved the city $180,000," said Morantz after the meeting, referring to a figure contained in the city's report. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Federal election ballots are ready to go, but are the parties?

An Elections Canada worker assembles election materials packages in Ottawa on Thursday in preparation for the 42nd federal General Election, tentatively set for Oct. 19, 2015. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Senators prepare push for aboriginal inquiry

Speaking for missing, murdered women. Liberal senators have ready-made legal arguments to force national examination

Former Liberals in the Senate are offering up ready-made legal arguments to anyone willing to take the federal government to court in order to force a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls.

They say they are taking the legal route because Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government refuses to heed the calls of aboriginal groups, civil-liberty organizations and opposition parties to hold an inquiry.

"I think that there is no other choice than to go to court," said Sen. Serge Joyal, who wrote the legal argument.

"This is a way to press upon the government in a more efficient manner, so the government will have to defend its stance in court and be shamed by public opinion. That, I think, might compel the government to act, finally."

Joyal, a lawyer by training, cites sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, other legal cases and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to buttress his argument for an inquiry.

Joyal and his Senate colleague Lillian Dyck are in the early stages of finding someone who will take the case to Federal Court.

But they say a court case will put pressure on the Conservative government to call an inquiry, something it has refused.

"It could be an aspect of shaming," Dyck said.

"It could also be alerting Canadians to the fact that there is an underlying right amongst aboriginal women to be protected. And therefore, it might also then somehow increase pressure in other ways."

The government's latest budget included a five-year, $25-million renewal of money aimed at stopping violence against aboriginal women.

Kellie Leitch, the minister for the status of women, said $8.6 million will be earmarked for community safety plans, $2.5 million for raising awareness, another $5 million on encouraging boys and men to denounce violence against women, and $7.5 million for victim services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This is a way to press upon the government in a more efficient manner, so the government will have to defend its stance." Liberal Senator Serge Joyal

'I've never seen this much riot gear': Paikin

A veteran journalist who witnessed the mass arrests during the G20 summit four years ago told a police disciplinary hearing Thursday that in his 32-year career he had never seen Toronto officers "kettle" peaceful protesters.

Steve Paikin, who hosts TVO's The Agenda, testified in a hearing for Supt. David (Mark) Fenton, the most senior police officer charged in the mass arrests during the meeting of global leaders.

Paikin told the judge that before the night of June 26, 2010, he had never seen police in riot gear box in protesters who didn't appear to threaten public safety.

"I've never seen this much riot gear, never seen the kind of hemming in that officers did this time," he said.

In the past, he said, police only intervened when protesters became "overly aggressive."

"Those were not the conditions on the night in question," he said, noting the crowd gathered outside a downtown hotel was sitting and chanting the words peaceful protest.

Fenton ordered officers to box in protesters in front of the hotel. More than 260 people were arrested and taken to a prisoner processing centre, which came under criticism for its deplorable conditions.

He has pleaded not guilty to a total of five charges of unlawful arrest and discreditable conduct arising out of two "kettling" incidents that occurred over the summit weekend,

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Supreme Court to rule on Métis, non-status

Landmark case.
The court's eventual decision could vastly extend government jurisdiction to more Aboriginal Peoples

The question of whether the federal government has the same responsibility to the country's Métis and non-status Indians as it does to status Indians and Inuit has fallen to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The outcome of the case could vastly extend the federal government's jurisdiction to hundreds of thousands of Aboriginal Peoples.

Or it could overturn a historic victory.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear appeals from both sides in a case started 15 years ago by Métis leader Harry Daniels. As usual, the court did not give reasons for its decision to hear the case.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, along with several Métis and non-status Indians, took the federal government to court in 1999, alleging discrimination because they were not considered "Indians" under a section of the Constitution Act and thus have been denied rights. Both the Métis and non-status Indians scored a major win last year when the Federal Court recognized them as "Indians" under a section of the Constitution. The federal government appealed that ruling.

Earlier this year, the Federal Court of Appeal upheld part of the decision.

"This is an important step in the long struggle begun by my predecessor as national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Harry Daniels," National Chief Betty Ann Lavallee said in a statement.

"The decision of the Court of Appeal was flawed in our view, as it drew an unhelpful distinction between the federal government's responsibility for non-status Indians and its responsibilities toward Métis peoples and status Indians." The Métis National Council wanted the feds to drop their appeal and work out an agreement with the Métis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Legal battle continues

The Supreme Court also gave the Métis National Council, which is a intervenor to the case, more time to file its own response to the appeals.

- The council wanted the federal government to drop its appeal and start working out an agreement with the Métis people.

RCMP moves in on anti-pipeline protest

RCMP officers arrest a protester at an anti-pipeline demonstration in Burnaby, B.C., on Thursday. A small group of protesters chanted as the Mounties moved to end the demonstration. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Great Slave Lake

People on plane rescued after forced landing

RCMP say the pilot and passengers on a small plane that made a forced landing Thursday in bad weather on the ice of Great Slave Lake have been rescued.

Cpl. Todd Scaplen said the seven were flown out by helicopters and no one appeared to be seriously hurt.

"All of the passengers have been airlifted to Yellowknife," Scaplen said.

The military said the Air Tindi Cessna 208 Caravan declared an emergency Thursday morning when its engine quit in icy conditions after leaving Yellowknife for Fort Simpson.

The plane landed about 40 kilometres west of the city on the north arm of the lake.

Air Tindi praised the pilot and the first responders. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canadian veterans given French Legion of Honour

Seventeen Second World War veterans in Montreal were awarded the French Legion of Honour on Thursday, including one who will turn 100 next year.

An emotional ceremony featuring the 17 was held in the presence of Philippe Zeller, the French ambassador to Canada, and deputy veterans affairs minister Walt Natynczyk.

Zeller described the award as an expression of France's wish to honour men who helped liberate the country during the war.

The oldest of the honorees was 99-year-old John Stuart Hermon, whose accomplishments include running the Boston Marathon at the age of 78.

For Hermon, the ceremony was a very touching experience.

"It makes one think how precious families and relatives are," the former captain in the 7th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, said in an interview.

"We should all be very grateful for the efforts that have been made by all of the veterans who are not here and that their families will eventually appreciate just what sacrifices their relatives have made in the battle of Europe."

Hermon recalled that his job was to drop bombs on the enemy and avoid getting killed.

"In the moment of battle, your mind is concentrated on doing a job, the same as it is in civilian life," he said. "There's no free pass and there's no turning back."

The 17 live at the Ste. Anne's Hospital for veterans in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue on the western tip of the Island of Montreal. They are among some 600 Canadian veterans receiving the award this year.

The Legion of Honour was created by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

"The whole of France is grateful toward these brave veterans who, 70 years ago, fought on the beaches of Normandy, Provence or in the skies of France," Zeller said.

"These men are the last of the young heroes who put their lives on hold to fight a ruthless war..."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Veteran Allan Bolduc, 91, wipes a tear after being honoured. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obama's immigration plan aims to spare five million from deportation

Battle heats up.
President spurns Republicans with expansive changes to immigration in the U.S.

President Barack Obama is ordering far-reaching changes to the U.S. immigration system that will protect nearly five million people from deportation, testing the limits of his presidential powers and inviting a showdown with newly emboldened Republicans.

In a televised address Thursday night, Obama described the most sweeping changes to fractured immigration laws in nearly three decades, saying his executive actions were a "common-sense" plan consistent with what previous presidents of both parties had done.

Immigrants living illegally in the United States would be saved from deportation by receiving work permits; millions more would remain in limbo.

Obama sought to break a stalemate in America's long-simmering debate over immigration by cutting out Congress, confronting Republicans who swept congressional elections earlier this month and ensuring that the contentious debate will carry on into the 2016 presidential campaign.

"To those members of Congress who question my authority to make our immigration system work better, or question the wisdom of me acting where Congress has failed, I have one answer: Pass a bill," Obama said.

Republicans, who take full control of Congress in January after capturing the Senate from Democrats, warned that Obama would face serious consequences for what they described as an unconstitutional power grab.

"The president will come to regret the chapter history writes if he does move forward," declared Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican who is soon to become the Senate majority leader, hours before Obama's speech.

Republicans were united in opposing his move but divided on how to respond. Lawmakers have raised options including lawsuits, a government shutdown and even impeachment. Party leaders are seeking to avoid a government shutdown, say such moves could backfire and anger voters ahead of the next presidential election in two years.

The White House says the president is exercising his executive authority to tackle immigration reform unilaterally, as Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush did before him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Obesity costs $2 trillion annually worldwide

The global cost of obesity has risen to $2 trillion US annually — nearly as much as smoking or the combined impact of armed violence, war and terrorism, according to a new report released Thursday.

The McKinsey Global Institute consulting firm's report focused on the economics of obesity, putting it among the top three social programs generated by human beings. It puts its impact at 2.8 per cent of global gross domestic product.

"Obesity isn't just a health issue," one of the report's authors, Richard Dobbs, said in a podcast. "But it's a major economic and business challenge."

The company says 2.1 billion people — about 30 per cent of the global population — are overweight or obese and that about 15 per cent of health care costs in developed economies are driven by it.

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Hacked videos posted to website

Online security. Russian hackers have targeted baby monitors, webcams and personal security cameras and uploaded the footage to a site

Russian hackers have targeted personal videos from several countries, including Canada, and then posted footage online. ISTOCK

For Russian hackers, it's as easy as 1-2-3-4.

That's among the simple manufacturer passwords that have been exploited to swipe personal video from computers in more than 100 countries, including Canada, and post the footage on a Russian website, according to Britain's information commission.

The hackers have been targeting baby monitors, webcams, and personal security cameras, uploading the footage to a site authorities have declined to identify for fear of driving traffic its way.

A child playing in Bucheon, South Korea, and an empty crib in Absecon, N.J. are among the video images that have appeared on the website, Britain's Information Commissioner's Office said Thursday.

The hackers have posted footage from bedrooms, office buildings, shops, launchdromats, stables and barns, the agency said.

Canada's Privacy Commissioner could not immediately say how many Canadians have been targeted, or how they have been affected, but spokeswoman Anne-Marie Hayden said the commission was trying to get the hacked images taken off the website. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong

Authorities in Hong Kong were the first to be alerted to the site, he added, before passing on what they knew to their Australian counterparts, who informed Canada's Privacy Commissioner.

- "It was initially Hong Kong — Hong Kong to Australia, Australia to Canada, Canada to ourselves and then America as well."
- British authorities think the site may be hosted by a company with ties to the U.S., and are working with officials in that country to confirm.

University of Manitoba

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Dr. Peter Jones, Principal Investigator

Baby strollers

Graco strollers recalled following finger injuries

Health Canada has announced the recall of a brand of baby strollers because a folding hinge on the products poses a risk to children's fingers.

The department says while there have been no reports of injuries in Canada, several children in the U.S. have lost fingertips or parts of a finger.

The recalled strollers are made by a company called Graco Children's Products Inc.. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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New search engine. Mozilla replaces Google with Yahoo

Yahoo will supplant Google's search engine on Firefox's Web browser in the U.S., signalling Yahoo's resolve to regain some of the ground that it has lost in the most lucrative part of the Internet's ad market.

The five-year alliance announced Wednesday will end a decade-old partnership in the U.S. between Google Inc. and the Mozilla Foundation, which oversees the Firefox browser. The tensions between Google and Mozilla had been rising since Google's introduction of the Chrome browser in 2008 began to undercut Firefox. Google's current contract with Mozilla expires at the end of this month, opening an opportunity for Yahoo to pounce.

Even though Chrome is now more widely used, Firefox still has a loyal audience that makes more than 100 billion worldwide search requests annually.

Yahoo is hoping to impress Firefox users as it sets out to prove that it's still adept at Internet search. The Sunnyvale, Calif., company leaned on Microsoft's technology for most of the results on its own website for the past four years.

Financial details of Yahoo's Firefox contract weren't disclosed. In a blog post, Mozilla CEO Chris Beard said the new deal offers "strong, improved economic terms" while allowing Mozilla "to innovate and advance our mission in ways that best serve our users and the Web."

Besides dropping Google in the U.S., Mozilla is also shifting Firefox to Baidu's search engine in China and Yandex in Russia. Firefox users still have the option to pull down a tab to pick Google and other search engines as their preferred way for looking up information online.

Yahoo Inc. CEO Marissa Mayer, a former Google executive, hailed the Firefox agreement as Yahoo's most significant partnership since forging the Microsoft deal in 2009. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royalty revenue

$274M

Google accounted for 90 per cent, or about $274 million US, of Mozilla's royalty revenue in 2012.

VOICES

MEN'S RIGHTS ≠ MISOGYNY

In a country that often shines the spotlight on women's rights, is there a place for centres — like one opened this week in Toronto — dedicated to men's issues, or do their values run counter to feminism? Metro's Rosemary Westwood argues that gender rights can't exist without men in the conversation, even if they're advocating on their own behalf.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
Metro in Toronto

No good will come of using men as props in the fight for gender equality.

That's why the city — and country — needs a men's centre.

The new Canadian Centre for Men and Families — which offers workshops, support groups and counselling for boys, men and fathers — has been criticized for allegedly misrepresenting itself and holding anti-feminist views. But a men's centre of some kind could provide exactly what feminists and women's advocates have been calling for: more people of both genders taking responsibility for inequality and seeking solutions.

Yes, men still have many of the hallmarks of privilege. They make more money than women. They are vastly overrepresented in politics and business. And yes, men are also in large part the perpetrators of violence (four times out of five, according to Statistics Canada).

But men are increasingly arguing that women aren't the only ones hurt by the gender divide. And they're right.

Current ideas of masculinity are toxic for both genders. The suicide rate for men is roughly three times that for women.

They face issues related to custody and divorce, as well as body image (boys as young as 10 are reportedly becoming obsessed with building muscles). Men are also about as likely as women to be the victims of violence.

And they can be victims of sexualized violence, too.

I'll even quote the infamous Warren Farrell, dubbed the father of the so-called men's rights movement, whose work is referenced by the Canadian Centre for Men and Families:

"We need to know not only why are our sons committing suicide, but also why are our sons much more likely to be the ones to shoot up schools?" he asked on NPR. "We're all in jeopardy if we don't pay attention to the cries of pain and isolation and alienation that are happening among our sons."

That's what makes groups such as WizeGuys so awesome. The sexual education group in Alberta sees men educating boys not just on their bodies, sexual health, and issues of consent, but also on how to build empathy and on "the connection between masculinity and male norms, sexuality and violence."

What if we had a national centre that housed the debate, research, policy-making and educational resources to open up that conversation?

Wouldn't that make men responsible for solutions to problems such as sexual violence — exactly what we feminists have been calling for?

Women's issues have (rightly) taken centre stage. But it's time to share the spotlight.

Fathers for Justice campaigners, dressed as Spider-Man and Batman, hold a sign saying "Stop War on Dads" on the roof of a politician's home in London, England. A new Canadian centre for men is trying to distance itself from more fringe elements in the men's rights movement. CATE GILLON/GETTY IMAGES

The other side

When the Canadian Centre for Men and Families opened in Toronto this week, it wasn't without controversy.

- Opponents worry groups like these bring together people with misogynistic beliefs who blame women and feminists for all of their problems.
- The Canadian Association for Equality (CAFE), for example, has been a magnet for controversy and a target for protest and criticism. It reached a peak in November 2012, when a talk by controversial author Warren Farrell was the scene of loud protests by about 100 people from feminist and left-wing groups.
- Critics have also accused the group of links to the website A Voice For Men, which is perceived as condoning violence. CAFE's director has denied any link.

Great expectations: When your tweets precede you

KATE CARRAWAY
Guest column

There's no better feeling than feeling known. It really is the warmest human pleasure, to be called out or identified or teased or even criticized in some way that demonstrates another person's sense of who — how — you are, for better or worse. "They just get me," we say about a new love or a friend or some other person who, not "as if" by magic, but really by magic, seems to understand us in the way we want and maybe even need to be understood.

That's why being known the wrong way is totally, singularly devastating: Being misunderstood by someone who thinks they really got it, but in fact was just making assumptions, or demonstrating their expectations, feels so much worse than being ignored.

It's so common, and so constant, though, because deciding that someone is some way based on a few easy, obvious, quick facts requires almost no effort of imagination or emotional labour.

I've found that acquaintances in real life and online — with good intentions and bad — feel just fine asking me way-too-personal questions because I'm a writer and have shared a lot about myself, both artificially and earnestly, in newspapers and magazines; it's as if I owe them some piece of my privacy.

I write often about relationships — but never mention who or if I'm dating — which has meant that readers assume it's chill to email me aggressively flirtatious stuff, because they assume I'm into it. (No.)

It's a particular kind of rudeness, really, that we just accept from each other, and it's actually getting to be a lot of people's problem, more and more, as social media establishes and asserts itself as a half-real part of our identities.

Using an online or social-media persona as a meaningful indication of someone else's life and brain and feelings is almost unavoidable — too easy, too obvious, too fast — when there is so much stuff there to go on, and so much of it apparently personal, apparently insistent. It's defensive, maybe: Let a Facebook page do the hard, confusing work of getting to know someone, of getting close, even if it means missing the point. See? Rude.

These great, stupid expectations are, more generally, life-ruiners: Almost every problem can be attributed to an assumption or an expectation, to thinking we're owed something, we deserve something, we're right about something. Or, someone. Being mistaken for the person I am in my writing or online has shown me on a near-constant basis how much people take for granted about each other, and in general.

As culture "flattens" beyond our obvious demographics and lifestyles, and our individual differences become more nuanced and acute, it should follow that we assume and expect less of each other, accept possibility and surprise, and let people reveal themselves slowly, subtly — and get to reveal ourselves, too.

metro AR

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ME TO WE

Games of prey go way back

Mockingjay, Part 1. Hunger Games' theme of humans hunting each other to entertain the rich and powerful is a well-worn premise in books and movies

Josh Hutcherson as Peeta and Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss star in Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1. CONTRIBUTED

Since the release of the first Hunger Games novel in 2008, literary sleuths have picked it apart, searching for connections to other books and films.

The scrutiny increased when the first film in the tetralogy set records for the biggest opening weekend for a non-sequel in 2013, and continues unabated with the release of this weekend's The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1.

Based on Suzanne Collins's mega-successful series, the movies are set in a dystopian world ruled by a fascist-style president (Donald Sutherland) who presides over The Hunger Games, a televised battle-to-the-death between 24 young players, two from each of the country's districts, including Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson).

The series draws on things we've seen before, in everything from the human sacrifices of Greek mythology or Survivor-style television shows to news stories of government corruption to create a world with its own rules, style and customs.

The most often-cited influence is Battle Royale, a 2000 Japanese movie based on a book by Koushun Takami. Like The Hunger Games, it's a story of school kids in a televised government-sanctioned death match.

Battle Royale's DVD box set even included a quote from a critic suggesting there'd be no Hunger Games without the Japanese film. "This is the movie that started it all," it reads.

Hunger fans were quick to point out differences in the two films.

The Japanese movie is about survival, they said, while Collins wrote about revolution. The author revealed her main influences were reality television and the Iraq war.

"I had never heard of that book or that author until my book was turned in," she told the New York Times.

It's worth noting that the idea of humans being preyed upon for the entertainment of the upper classes dates back at least as far as 1932's The Most Dangerous Game.

The story of a big-game hunter who tracks humans for sport on an isolated island is based on a Richard Connell short story that also loosely inspired episodes of everything from Gilligan's Island to Lost in Space.

Since then, Norman Jewison's Rollerball, Roger Corman's Deathrace 2000 (and its 2008 Jason Statham remake) and The Running Man have mined similar territory.

As for the author who wrote Battle Royale, he gave ABC News a very diplomatic answer when asked about the similarities between the two stories.

"I think every novel has something to offer," he said.

"If readers find value in either book, that's all an author can ask for."

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1

Directors. Francis Lawrence

Stars. Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson

●●●●○

Mockingjay, Part 1 ups the stakes considerably from the last film in the series, putting several big ideas into motion. The cinematic world created in the first two movies is about to change in very dramatic ways, and this movie prepares viewers for the revolution that will try to unify the districts against the evil President Snow (Donald Sutherland). Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) looks suitably concerned throughout and there are several effectively staged action scenes. But despite fine performances from Lawrence, Julianne Moore and Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and lessons in mass-produced anarchy, it occasionally feels padded, like a place holder for next year's series finale.

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Remembering Mike Nichols

Mike Nichols — a director of matchless versatility who brought fierce wit, caustic social commentary and wicked absurdity to film, TV and stage hits — has died at 83. Married to ABC's Diane Sawyer, he started as a standup performer in a groundbreaking comedy duo with Elaine May, and went on to a career that spanned more than 50 years, winning an Academy Award, a Grammy and multiple Tony and Emmy honours. Nichols had a remarkable gift for mixing edgy humour and dusky drama. Here are five things he will be most remembered for:

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angels in America

The 2003 TV miniseries adapted from the stage sensation, blended rich pathos and whimsy in its portrait of people coping with AIDS and looking to the heavens for compassion they found lacking in Ronald Reagan's 1980s America. Nichols won directing Emmys for Angels in America Parts 1 and 2.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf

Nichols' 1966 film directing debut unforgettably captured the vicious yet sparkling and sly dialogue of Edward Albee's play, as a couple (Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor) torment each other over deep-seated guilt and resentment.

The Graduate

Nichols won the best-director Oscar for 1967's The Graduate, which co-starred Anne Bancroft as an aging temptress pursuing Dustin Hoffman, whose character responds with the celebrated line, "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me."

Big-name collaborations

Nichols often collaborated with Jack Nicholson, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson. Other stars who worked with Nichols included Al Pacino (Angels in America), Gene Hackman and Robin Williams (The Birdcage), Harrison Ford, Melanie Griffith and Sigourney Weaver (Working Girl) and Julia Roberts (Closer). In 2007, Nichols brought out Charlie Wilson's War, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts.

His Broadway work

On Broadway, he won nine Tonys, for directing the plays Barefoot in the Park (1964), Luv and The Odd Couple (1965), Plaza Suite (1968), The Prisoner of Second Avenue (1972), The Real Thing (1984), and Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman (2012). He has also won in other categories, for directing the musical Monty Python's Spamalot (2005), and for producing Annie (1977) and The Real Thing (1984).

It was a cruel summer at the box office — but why?

Ticket sales. Record-low revenues have been blamed on fewer big films, binge-watching TV

RICHARD CROUSE
scene@metronews.ca

Words like "disappointing" and "dismal" among others beginning with the letter "d" have been used to describe the summer's box office yield.

In movieland, the summer season is defined as the first Friday in May through Labour Day Weekend, a period that, this passed summer, saw box office revenues fall to an eight-year low, down 15 per cent from 2013, according to recently released stats.

There were some very big hits — Guardians of the Galaxy, and Transformers: Age of Extinction — but even their multi-million dollar grosses weren't enough to compete with last year's $4.75 billion overall take.

"We've seen this before," says Michael Kennedy, executive vice president, filmed entertainment at Cineplex. "Right now, everybody's binging. After a while they will get tired of binge-watching TV and say, 'I'm really tired of being in my house. I want to go out.'"

Kennedy adds that the summer slump could also be attributed to several high-profile absences.

"Pixar was originally scheduled to go in the summer with a film that got moved back, and Fast and Furious was supposed to go but after Paul Walker's accident they moved the movie back and nobody replaced it. One or two movies move and millions disappear."

So how does it work? How do studios and distributors determine a release schedule? Danish Vahidy, Mongrel Media's director of marketing, says studios put "down the tent pole for flagship properties one, two or sometimes three years in advance. With the success of sequels, studios feel more secure planning in advance for franchises rather than an unknown entity."

That means the wannabe blockbusters from this summer — the X-Men, Godzilla and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles et al — probably had release dates attached to them before Prince William walked Catherine Middleton down the aisle.

Kennedy says counterprogramming is one of the keys.

"They look at what everybody else does and if they see a Fast and Furious sitting on the second week of July and they have an action movie, they're staying away from that weekend."

Mongrel Media took a risk and counterprogrammed a movie that went on to become one of their biggest hits of the summer. "Boyhood was released in July as the summertime nicely captured the notion of childhood set in the film," Vahidy says.

"It was also a great way to counter program with the Hollywood blockbusters and offer movie goers a smart original film as an option."

The critically acclaimed film was aimed at a different audience than the other two big releases that week, Disney's kid friendly Planes and the raunchy Cameron Diaz comedy Sex Tape. "That move paid off for us as Boyhood is one of our most successful releases ever with a theatrical box-office of over $2.3 million in Canada and growing."

So why didn't it work for the big releases this summer? Suggested reasons for the downturn range from a lack of family movies, which traditionally pull in big numbers, too many sequels and superhero movies and even divided attention from the World Cup.

Now in theatres

Ratings and synopses courtesy of Rotten Tomatoes. For more movie reviews, trailers and news go to RottenTomatoes.com.

Ratings: *Certified Fresh:* *Fresh:* *Rotten:* *Audience response:* *Audience anticipation for the film:* +

Mystery & Suspense

Horns

Director. Alexandre Aja

Stars. James Remar, Daniel Radcliffe

Based on the novel by Joe Hill, Horns is a supernatural thriller. The film follows Ig Perrish (Daniel Radcliffe), the No. 1 suspect for the violent rape and murder of his girlfriend, Merrin (Juno Temple). Hungover from a night of hard drinking, Ig awakens one morning to find horns starting to grow from his own head and soon realizes their power drives people to confess their sins.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 58% **Audience:** + 93%

Drama

Rosewater

Director. Jon Stewart

Stars. Gael García Bernal, Kim Bodnia

Rosewater is based on The New York Times best-selling memoir Then They Came for Me: A Family's Story of Love, Captivity, and Survival, written by Maziar Bahari. The film marks the directorial debut of The Daily Show host Jon Stewart, and stars Gael García Bernal. Rosewater follows the Tehran-born Bahari, a broadcast journalist with Canadian citizenship.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** + 91%

Action

Wolves

Director. David Hayter

Stars. Lucas Till, Jason Momoa

Popular high school student Cayden Richards wakes from a horrific nightmare, only to realize that he's living it ... He is changing into something vicious, unpredictable and wild. Forced to hit the road after the brutal murder of his parents, Cayden tries to hunt down the truth of what he is. In the remote, mountain town of Lupine Ridge, he discovers others like him.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 33% **Audience:** + 87%

Sci-Fi & Adventure

Interstellar

Director. Christopher Nolan

Stars. Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain

With our time on Earth coming to an end, a team of explorers undertakes the most important mission in human history; travelling beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** 87%

Drama

The Theory of Everything

Director. James Marsh

Stars. Eddie Redmayne, Felicity Jones

Starring Eddie Redmayne (Les Misérables) and Felicity Jones (The Amazing Spider-Man 2), this is the extraordinary story of one of the world's greatest living minds, the renowned astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who falls deeply in love with fellow Cambridge student Jane Wilde.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 81% **Audience:** 83%

Comedy

Dumb and Dumber To

Director. J.B. Rogers, Bobby Farrelly

Stars. Jim Carrey, Jeff Daniels

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels reprise their signature roles as Lloyd and Harry in the sequel to the smash hit that took the physical comedy and kicked it in the nuts: Dumb and Dumber To. The original film's directors, Peter and Bobby Farrelly, take Lloyd and Harry on a road trip to find a child Harry never knew he had.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 24% **Audience:** 56%

Rolling Stone
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Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones reach for the stars in two of the year's best performances."
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Joining the Hunger Games revolution

Katniss Everdeen now has lots of help in her quest to overthrow President Snow's corrupt government

REGAN REID
scene@metronews.ca

The last time we saw Katniss Everdeen, the bow-and-arrow-wielding hero of The Hunger Games, she had just escaped the Quarter Quell (a special anniversary edition of the Games that featured victors from previous years).

After destroying the Games arena and being airlifted to safety, Katniss learns that her mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, the Head Gamemaker, Plutarch Heavensbee, and many of her closest friends and allies have all helped orchestrate a plan to take down President Snow's government.

The leaders of this rebellion want her to be the poster child for the cause. In case she needs extra convincing, she's told that Peeta is imprisoned in the Capitol and that her home, District 12, has been destroyed by firebombs.

Needless to say, in The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1, Katniss is on the warpath. When she discovers that Peeta has been brainwashed to support the Capitol's fight against the rebels, this only fuels her desire to defeat President Snow once and for all. And this time, she'll have some help.

Here's a brief introduction to some of the new characters who will join Katniss and the rebellion.

President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore)

For those a little foggy on the history of Panem, the districts waged a war against the Capitol 75 years ago and lost. As punishment, District 13 was bombed into oblivion — or so we thought. As we learn at the end of Catching Fire, District 13 still exists, but its citizens now live deep underground. President Alma Coin is not only the leader of District 13 but also of the insurrection against the Capitol. Her subterranean facility serves as the rebels' home base. As her sleek grey hair, crisp grey uniform and cold grey eyes suggest, Coin is stern. She runs her district like a military boarding school. Its citizens adhere to strict schedules, have assigned daily duties, and train for future attacks. Coin is not to be messed with — something Katniss may soon figure out for herself.

Boggs (Mahershala Ali)

Boggs is President Coin's right-hand man. Like most District 13ers, he seems cold and robotic when we first meet him — but that's probably due to the years of rigorous training, controlled diet and an altogether dull lifestyle that's enforced by Coin's administration. When Katniss joins the rebellion, Boggs is assigned to be her personal bodyguard and we quickly learn that he's not so stiff. He's actually kind, smart and very protective of Katniss, all qualities that will probably be beneficial to her when they head into battle together.

Cressida (Natalie Dormer)

A native of the Capitol, Cressida is the director of a film crew assigned to follow Katniss, a.k.a. the Mockingjay, as they film propaganda to support the rebellion. As you can tell by her punk hairdo — half her head is shaved and tattooed with vines — Cressida is not frilly or delicate like most of her Capitol compatriots. She and her team will follow Katniss into war zones without blinking an eye. She's a true professional, always looking to get the best footage for her rebel employers, but she's also a firm believer in the cause. She tells Katniss early on that she wasn't poached by Plutarch to do a job, she chose to leave the Capitol and join the fight against Snow.

Shaving head liberating for Mockingjay role

Natalie Dormer. GETTY IMAGES

Natalie Dormer. GOT actress enjoys playing strong, complex female characters

Natalie Dormer says she would have shaved her entire head for a role in The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1.

Luckily, the Game of Thrones actress only had to buzz half her long locks to play Cressida in the film.

"It's funny how being an actor forces you to do things or go places that you wouldn't ordinarily," the 32-year-old actress said in a recent interview. "You learn something about yourself and ultimately I found it quite liberating, to be honest."

Dormer admitted she felt nervous about shaving half her head, but once she did it, she felt surprisingly free.

"Women have a lot of ... attitudes enforced in us about our sense of attractiveness being bound up in long, flowing, Hollywood kind of hair. So it's kind of liberating to play a woman who is all about her profession."

Cressida is a director who films Katniss Everdeen in an effort to encourage strength and morale among the rebels.

"The beauty of The Hunger Games, and also Game of Thrones, in fairness: Both projects have really complex, three-dimensional, contradictory, strong women ... the writing of female characters is extraordinary."

Dormer is known to fans as Margaery Tyrell, the politically cunning and ambitious wife of King Joffrey Baratheon. She also portrayed Anne Boleyn in The Tudors.

Quoted

"Courage is not the absence of fear, it's overcoming it."

Actress Natalie Dormer, on her femme fatale roles in Hunger Games and GOT

When asked why she is often cast as the femme fatale, Dormer isn't sure.

"For me, it's not necessarily interesting to play a strong, fearless woman. It's interesting to play a woman who is terrified and then overcomes that fear. It's about the journey. Courage is not the absence of fear, it's overcoming it," she said.

"Women are as complex, contradictory human beings as men are, and I know I'm a bundle of contradictions and have my good days and bad days. That's what I look for in a script: really interesting, ambiguous, ambivalent three-dimensional characters. Margaery certainly has that."

As for Cressida, Dormer said her character's motivations are unclear at the start of Mockingjay.

"Does she really believe in Katniss? Does it matter if she doesn't? She wants a revolution, but does she care about Katniss Everdeen? You watch her grow and learn things about herself and believe in Katniss. I think it's a brilliant journey." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jennifer Lawrence plays Katniss Everdeen in the Hunger Games. CONTRIBUTED

A role model without ego, both on and off the screen

Jennifer Lawrence. Like her character, Hunger Games star remains humble about being in the spotlight

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York City

Jennifer Lawrence is an unusual kind of shy. She's clearly uncomfortable with praise, especially fake praise, and is the first person to make fun of herself. At the same time she's not hesitant, even enthusiastic, about sharing her self-deprecation.

It's a shtick, but a sincere shtick, if one she's gotten better at controlling.

But she can still be a loose cannon. One minute she'll be goofily oversharing about a time they shot a scene in a pretty meadow ("I got a selfie of me peeing in it!"). The next she's cryptically honest: "It's certainly a blessed life. But there are also sacrifices. I get to do what I love, but there's a downside to every job."

At a recent media event with other Hunger Games actors, Lawrence gets the most questions, even ones she's not totally comfortable fielding. She's asked about the politics of the series, especially the depiction of revolution from within the rebel bunker, led by the vaguely sinister President Coin.

"Katniss is representing the consequences of war," she says. "It's not that she doesn't believe in what President Coin wants. It's not that she doesn't believe the Capitol is a terrible government that's only good for the 1 per cent. But war is complicated. It affects everyone on both sides. There's no right way to start or end a war. I don't know."

Another cast member, Natalie Dormer, tries to summarize Lawrence's world view.

"Jen was saying that Katniss doesn't have any ego. Neither does Jennifer Lawrence," Dormer says. "Jen has a reputation as a role model. So does Katniss Everdeen. But (Lawrence) can't comment on that reputation herself, because by her very nature, she wouldn't."

Friends for real

Jennifer Lawrence says the Hunger Games cast and crew are like family, and her best friends are fellow stars Josh Hutcherson, who plays Peeta, and Liam Hemsworth, who plays Gale.

"I would never have expected to have a man this good-looking be my best friend," she says about Hemsworth. "He taught me how to be fair and to stand up for myself. My biggest weakness is negotiating with people. I'm a wimp about standing up for myself. He's really good at making sure everything stays fair. I used to let people walk all over me. He taught me to toughen up."

Melissa McCarthy and Dustin Hoffman?

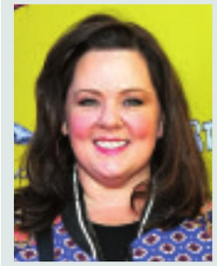
We asked three stars of The Hunger Games franchise to choose an alternate actor or actress who would be right for their roles

Josh Hutcherson (Peeta Mellark)

"I would choose young Dustin Hoffman, if it's possible to go back in time. As in, The Graduate or Marathon Man.

Jennifer Lawrence (Katniss Everdeen)

"I feel like Keanu Reeves or Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson could really bring the strength that I was lacking, and the agility. But if I were going female, I'd go with Bette Davis. The obvious choice would be Shailene Woodley. She's proven she could do it."



Liam Hemsworth (Gale Hawthorne)

"I'd probably want Melissa McCarthy to play my part. I just think she's great and she would bring so much honesty and truth to the role."

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Meryl Streep hugs a giant Oscar trophy in the press room at the 84th Annual Academy Awards. GETTY IMAGES

Want to buy your way to Academy Award glory?

Oscars for sale. The auction of film's most coveted trophies is controversial, but it doesn't stop the deals

'Tis the season when many stars are preparing for months-long campaigns with the distant hope of bringing home an Academy Award come February.

But winning isn't the only way to snag one of the coveted statuettes. Enthusiastic collectors with several hundred thousand to spare can achieve Oscar glory at the right auction house. And they could do it next as soon as this weekend.

The latest prize to go under the hammer is James Cagney's 1942 best actor Oscar for his role in Yankee Doodle Dandy. Auctioneer Nate D. Sanders has required an $800,000 minimum bid for the trophy, which they predict could sell for upward of $1 million by the time the auction closes Thursday night.

"It's the most prestigious Oscar to hit the market in recent years," says Sam Heller, a representative of Nate D. Sanders. For one, he notes, there hasn't been a best actor Oscar available in two decades.

The scarcity of Oscars for purchase isn't an accident. Historically, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has not looked kindly on the free market sale of the prize.

"The academy, its members and the many film artists and craftspeople who've won Academy Awards believe strongly that Oscars should be won, not purchased," the academy said in a statement to The Associated Press. "Unfortunately, despite our objections, we don't have the legal means of stopping the sale of certain statuettes, including this one."

In an effort to combat the sale of awards by winners or their estates, the motion picture academy instituted a rule in 1951 that requires those seeking to sell their Oscars to first offer it to the academy to purchase for $1. That means that any award won before 1951 is, for the most part, fair game.

"It really feeds the fire for collectors. Even on the black market," says Julien's Auctions President and CEO Darren Julien of the legal restrictions. Julien has sold Oscars for auction in the past, but his relationship with the academy is paramount. "We seek their permission before we sell something," he says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who buys Oscars?

The types of collectors who purchase Oscars vary wildly. The late Michael Jackson famously acquired David O. Selznick's Gone With the Wind Oscar for a record-breaking $1.5 million.

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 21 TO THURS., NOV. 27 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Dumb and Dumber To. CONTRIBUTED

Cinema City McGillivray 2190 McGillivray Blvd.

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Sun 2-4:35-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20-9:55
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:45-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 4-6:30-9:10
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:20-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:35
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:10
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 1-1:25-1:50-3:50-4:15-4:45-6:45-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:05-10:30 No Passes Sun 1-1:25-1:50-3:50-4:15-4:45-6:45-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:05 No Passes Mon 4-4:15-5:20-6:50-7:10-8:35-9:40-10:05 No Passes Tue 4-4:15-4:45-6:50-7:10-7:40-9:40-10:05-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 4:15-5:20-7:10-8:35-10:05 No Passes Fri 4:50-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 3:30-4-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7-9:30-10
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:45-8:30 Mon-Thu 4:45-8:30 Fri 8 Sat-Sun 4:30-8:10 Mon-Thu 7:45
Penguins of Madagascar (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 4-6:50-9:40
St. Vincent (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:25-10:10 Mon-Tue 4:40-7:25-10:10

Cinema City Northgate 1399 McPhillips Street

Annabelle (14A) Fri-Sun 7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 8:40
Baaz (14A) Fri 3:45-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:35-7:40
The Boxtrolls (G) Sat-Sun 1:50
The Boxtrolls 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:20 Mon-Thu 5:25
Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:30
Edsa Woolworth (PG) Fri 4:05-6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35
Happy Ending (STC) Fri 3:55-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-3:55-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Happy Go Lucky (STC) Fri 4:10-7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:05-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 9:10 Mon-Thu 7:50
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri 4:40-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:40-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Sat-Sun 1:10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri 4-6:45 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:45 Mon-Thu 5:30

Cinematheque 304-100 Arthur

The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared (14A) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 2
Climate Change in Atlantic Canada (STC) Wed-Thu 7
Kung Fu Elliot (STC) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Mon-Tue

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips

Annabelle (14A) Fri-Sun 7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 8:40
Baaz (14A) Fri 3:45-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:35-7:40
The Boxtrolls (G) Sat-Sun 1:50
The Boxtrolls 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:20 Mon-Thu 5:25
Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:30
Edsa Woolworth (PG) Fri 4:05-6:50-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:05-6:50-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:35
Happy Ending (STC) Fri 3:55-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:40-3:55-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Happy Go Lucky (STC) Fri 4:10-7:05-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:05-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:25-8:25
The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 9:10 Mon-Thu 7:50
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri 4:40-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:40-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG) Sat-Sun 1:10
Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3D (PG) Fri 4-6:45 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:45 Mon-Thu 5:30

Famous Players Kildonan Place, 1555 Regent Ave W.

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:15 Sat-Sun 12:15
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 4:10-6:50-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:10-6:50-10:15 Mon 5:20-8:40 Tue 4:10-6:50-10:15 Wed-Thu 5:20-8:10
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:20-10:15 Mon 5:40-8:40 Tue 4:30-7:20-10:15 Wed-Thu 5:40-8:40
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:10-8
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-12:30-1-3-3:30-4-6-6:30-7-9-9:30-10 No Passes Mon 5:10-5:30-5:50-8:10-8:30-8:50 No Passes Tue 3-3:30-4-6-6:30-7-9-9:30-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 5:30-5:50-8:30-8:50
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 2:50-6:40-9:40 Mon 5-8 Tue 2:50-6:40-9:40
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 5:15-7:40

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave.

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Thu 3:50
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Wed 6:50-9:50 Thu 9:50
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri 3:45-6:45-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7:05-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05-10:05 Fri 4:05
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 4-7-9:30-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:30-10 Mon-Wed 4-7-9:30-10 Thu 4-7-7-9:30-10
Interstellar (PG) Fri 4-8 Sat-Sun 12:20-4-8 Mon-Thu 4-8
St. Vincent (14A) Fri 3:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri 3:35-6:35-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-6:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35-9:35

Landmark Towne Cinema 8. 301 Notre Dame Avenue

Big Hero 6 (G) Sat-Sun 3:30 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:15
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-6:45-9:15 Mon-Tue 6:45-9:15
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Wed-Thu 7:15-9:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:50-7:20-9:35-10 Sat-Sun 12:50-1:10-3:35-4:05-6:50-7:20-9:35-10 Mon 6:50-7:20-9:35-10 Tue 10 Wed-Thu 6:50-7:20-9:35-10 Tue 6:50-7:20-9:35
Interstellar (PG) Fri 8 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:30-8 Mon-Thu 8
John Wick (14A) Fri 9:40 Sat-Sun 4:15-9:40 Mon-Tue 9:40
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 6:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-6:55 Mon-Tue 6:55
Ouija (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:35-7:15-9:45 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 9:45
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Wed-Thu 7:05-9:20
Rosewater (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:20-7:10-9:30 Mon-Tue 7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 12-1:45-4:25-7-9:45 Sat 11-1:45-4:25-7-9:45 Sun 12:05-1:45-4:25-7-9:45 Mon 1:30-4:10-6:45-9:35 Tue 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:35 Wed 4:05-6:45-9:35 Thu 1:30-4:05-6:45-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sat 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:35 Sun 11:50-2:30-5:10-7:50-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:10-7:55-10:30
The Book of Life (G) Fri-Sat 12:10 Sun 12-2:20 Mon-Tue 1:40
The Book of Life 3D (G) Fri-Sat 2:35-5:15 Sun 4:25 Mon-Tue 5:10
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 12-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:20-8:10-10-10:50 Sat 11:15-12-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:20-7:20-8:10-10-10:50 Sun 12-1:55-2:40-4:35-5:15-7:20-7:55-10-10:30 Mon-Tue 1:25-2:10-4-5-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:25 Wed 1:25-2:10-4:15-5-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:25 Thu 1:25-2:10-4-5-7:05-7:45-9:45-10:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1:30
Fury (14A) Fri-Sat 3:35-10:20 Sun 3:35 Mon 3:55-10:25 Tue-Thu 4:10-10:25
Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-6:50 Mon 1:45 Tue 1:45-7:10 Wed-Thu 1:30-7:10
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:25-10:10
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Fri 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Sat 10:50-1:45-4:40-7:40-10:40 No Passes Sun 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:20-10:20 No Passes Fri 11:55-12:10-12:40-1:10-2:45-3:10-3:40-4:10-5:40-6:10-6:40-7:10-8:40-9:10-9:40-10:10 No Passes Sat 11:40-12:10-12:40-1:15-2:40-3:10-3:40-4:10-5:40-6:10-6:40-7:10-8:40-9:10-9:40-10:10 No Passes Sun 11:50-12:10-12:40-1:10-2:45-3:10-3:40-4:10-5:40-6:10-6:40-7:10-8:40-9:10-9:40-10:10 No Passes Mon-Tue 2:20-2:50-3:20-3:50-5:20-5:50-6:20-6:50-8:20-8:50-9:20-9:50 No Passes Wed 2:20-2:50-4-5:20-5:50-6:50-8:20-8:50-9:50 No Passes Thu 2:20-2:50-3:50-5:20-5:50-6:50-8:20-8:50-9:50
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:35-6:15-9:55 Sat 2:20-6:15-9:55 Sun 2:40-6:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 2-6:15-9:55
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sat 11:55-3:25-7:05-10:45 Sun 11:55-3:25-7-10:35 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:55-10:30
John Wick (14A) Fri-Sat 7:55-10:30 Sun 10:15 Mon-Tue 7:40-10:10
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Il Barbiere Di Siviglia (STC) Sat 11:55
National Theater Live: Of Mice and Men - Encore (STC) Sun 12:55 Mon 7
Penguins of Madagascar (G) No Passes Wed 1:45 No Passes Thu 1:55
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:40-7:35-10
St. Vincent (14A) Fri 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sat 4:05-7:30-10:15 Sun 4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon-Tue 1:50-4:45-7:30-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:45-7:30-10:15
WWE Survivor Series - 2014 (STC) Sun 7

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd.

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:40-4:15-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:40-4:15-7-9:45 Mon 1:05-4:15-6:55-9:45 Tue 1:15-4:15-6:55-9:45 Wed 1:20-4:15-6:55-9:45 Thu 4:15-6:55-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 2-4:45-7:35-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:20-2-4:45-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:55-4:45-7:35-10:15
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 12:15-1:55-2:30-4:35-5:15-7:25-8-10:10-10:40 Sat 12:30-1:35-4:35-5:15-7:25-8-10:10-10:40 Sun 11:15-11:45-1:55-2:30-4:35-5:15-7:25-8-10:10-10:40 Mon 12:55-1:35-4:15-5:05-7:05-7:45-10:10-10:30 Tue 12:45-1:35-4:15-5:05-7:05-7:45-10:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:55-1:35-4:15-5:05-7:05-7:45-10:10-10:30
Fury (14A) Fri 12:30-7:05 Sat 7:05 Sun 12:30-7:05 Mon 1:15-7:05 Tue 1:05-7:05
Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Sun 3:40-10:10 Mon-Tue 3:50-10:05
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) No Passes Wed-Thu 2:05-4:55-7:40-10:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-1:20-3:20-3:50-4:20-6:20-6:50-7:20-9:20-9:50-10:20 No Passes Mon-Tue 1-2-3-3:30-4-6-6:30-7-9-9:30-10 No Passes Wed 1-2-3:30-4-6:30-7-9:30-10 No Passes Thu 2-3:30-4:30-6:30-7:30-9:30-10:30 No Passes Fri 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 11-1:50-4:50-7:50-10:50 No Passes Mon-Wed 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 1-4-7-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri 3-6:40-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:15-3-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:50-6:35-9:40
Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (G) Sat 11
The Metropolitan Opera: Il Barbiere Di Siviglia (STC) Sat 11:55
Penguins of Madagascar (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 2:15
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:50-7:15-9:35

The Word

Did Chris take sloppy seconds over Sexiest Man Alive title?

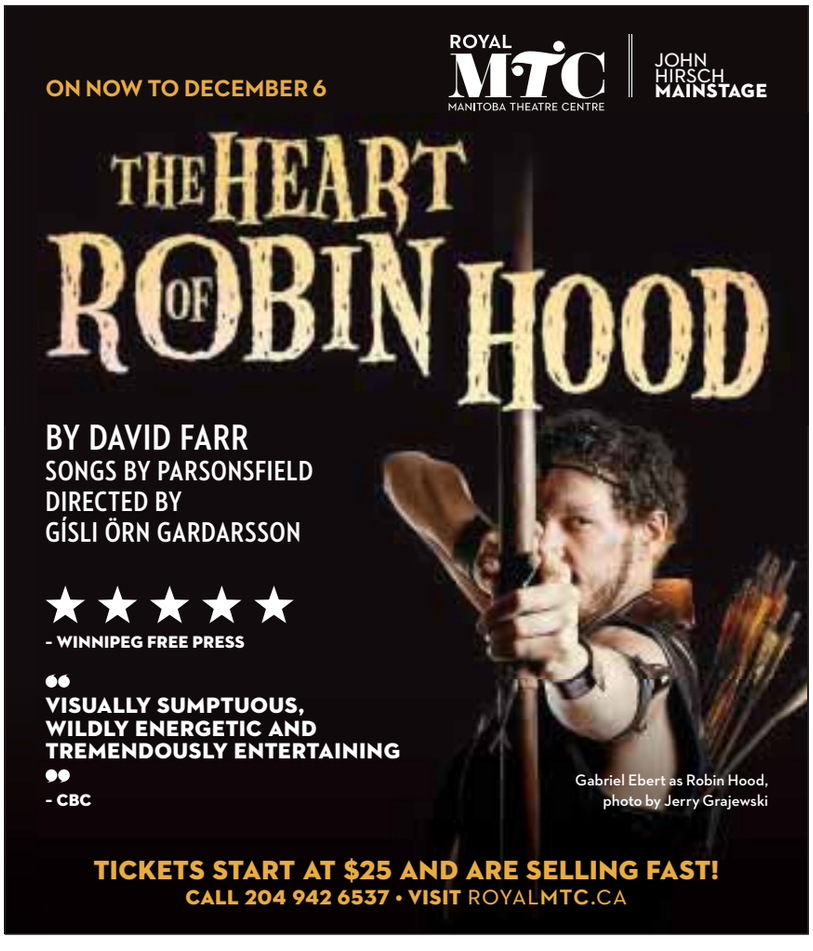
NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It's Sexiest Man Alive season, which means one of the best Hollywood rumours is getting trotted out again: Ryan Gosling, everyone's favourite Canadian with a Brooklyn accent, reportedly turned down People magazine's offer of the heady title — multiple times.

"They tried a few times, especially during his huge year in 2011," a source tells the Wrap. "The consensus was he's too serious for it, too artsy." I was going to say too bashful, but sure.

People's editorial director, Jess Cagle, for what it's worth, insists that there was no turning down by the Goose for this go round, at least. "While I look forward to the day when Ryan Gosling is named Sexiest Man Alive, this was not his year," Cagle says.

"Our 2014 honoree Chris Hemsworth was our first and only choice. If you want to know why, just look at him. I mean, seriously."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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Ariana Grande ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Ariana says she's no diva, so what's up with poshest dressing room rider?

Ariana Grande has been making a point of saying she isn't a diva, despite rumours to the contrary. "There's a difference between being determined and being a bitch," she's insisted recently. And while I'm all for a semantics argument about how a diva and a bitch aren't the same thing, some of Grande's past contractual demands are surfacing to undermine her argument. Life & Style has obtained a contract for Grande's time on the Nickelodeon show Victorious that required the show to provide her with a dressing room superior to all other cast members save for series star Victoria Justice. It's kind of tough to claim reports of your diva-ness are exaggerated when you're worried about Leon Thomas III having a nicer place to nap between scenes than you.

Twitter

@Rosie
I Warned You About Bill Cosby in 2007

@_juliannemoore
So very sad to hear of Mike Nichols death. A great talent, a wonderful, bright, charming human being.

@rickygervais
Remember, we don't stop playing because we grow old, we grow old because we stop playing. Have a fun day.

Johnny Rotten

Johnny spoils himself Rotten with iPad apps

Former Sex Pistols frontman John Lydon — or, you know, Johnny Rotten — has some serious impulse control issues, which isn't that surprising. What is surprising is that he's been unable to curb a crippling appetite for iPad in-app purchases. No, really. "I wasted — you're the first to know this — 10,000 f–ing pounds in the last two years on apps on my iPad," he tells the Telegraph. (By the way, by current exchange rates 10,000 f–ing pounds translates to about 15,600 f–ing dollars.) "I got into Game of Thrones, Game of War, Real Racing, and I just wanted to up the ante," he says. "And like an idiot I didn't check myself. I've been checked now. But there's a kid in me, see? A bit of my childhood was taken from me and I'm determined to bring it back." At whatever cost, apparently.

Reese riled over rude remarks regarding Renée

Reese Witherspoon has some opinions about the recent attention Renée Zellweger's received — very, very strong opinions, as it turns out. "It's horrible. It's cruel and rude and disrespectful. I can go on and on. It bothers me immensely," she tells the Hollywood Reporter. "Why do they have to tear women down? And why do we have to tear other women down to build another woman up? It drives me crazy. Like, this one looks great without her makeup but that one doesn't look good without her makeup, and it's all just a judgment and assault that I don't — look, men are prey to it as well. I just don't think it's with the same sort of ferocity."

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Slurp on the rustic side

Soup Week. We wrap up a week of brothy delights with this Chicken and Corn Chowder in Squash

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

A warm, comforting bowl of soup is one of the best things to warm up to on a chilly day and it's also a great way to enjoy the last crop of the season.

This chowder is a beautiful ways to showcase in-season squash.

This recipe serves four. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Ingredients

Bowls (squash halves)
- 2 buttercup squash, about 3 1/2 lb (1.6 kg) each, stem removed
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- Salt and pepper
- 8 slices bacon

Chicken and Corn Chowder
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) butter
- 2 skinless and boneless chicken breast halves, cut into cubes
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 6 tbsp (90 ml) all-purpose flour
- 4 cups (1 litre) chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 cup (250 ml) 35% cream
- 1 cup (250 ml) corn kernels, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped parsley

Bowls (squash halves)

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

2. Cut each squash in half horizontally to form four bowls. With a spoon, scrape out the seeds until the inner surface is smooth. If the top of the squash is shallower, scrape off more flesh. With a knife, score the flesh in a crisscross manner every 1 inch (2.5 cm) without piercing the skin.

3. Brush with the oil and vinegar. Season with salt and pepper. Place 2 slices of bacon into each squash half. Place on a baking sheet. Bake for about 1 hour and 30 minutes or until the flesh is tender and the bacon is crispy. Remove the bacon and keep aside.

Chicken and Corn Chowder

1. In a saucepan, brown the onion and celery in the butter. Add the chicken and sauté until golden brown. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute. Sprinkle with the flour and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

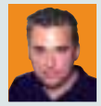
2. Add broth, potatoes and cream. Bring to boil, stirring continuously. Simmer gently 15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. Add corn and cook 5 minutes. Add the parsley and adjust the seasoning.

3. Ladle the chowder into the squash and garnish with the bacon slices.

FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!

Liquid Assets

A fine wine balance



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I come from the Maritimes, so I know my way around a bowl of chowder.

That said, what I love about Ricardo's chicken and corn interpretation is that there isn't a bowl, or, at least not one you'll need to put in the dishwasher.

Serving this chunky wonder from a half shell of rustic squash is more than inspired, it supports the recipe's initial burst of buttery, corn-forward sweetness and makes it ripe for a white wine match.

I know what you're thinking: Vegetables and wine can be a marriage made in Kardashian-land. Here they're a perfect foil for Chardonnay.

Though much maligned by the current crop of Internet-fed wine aficionados, Chardonnay is a multifaceted grape that gets its oak on in some wines, while putting round creamy fruit in the game in others.

While it may sound corny, J. Lohr Estates' 2012 Riverstone Chardonnay ($18.95 - $23.99) from California balances both the wood and fruit elements, making it a fine partner for this week's dish.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Anderson family vision care
OPTOMETRISTS:
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Dr. Tyler Anderson
Dr. Andrea D' Mello
Dr. Michael Langenberger

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A gift fit for a gamer

Plug in. Take guessing out of video game shopping

BLAINE KYLLO
For Metro

Everyone has someone in their life who likes to play video games, and games make for great gifts.

Knowing what to get may be a challenge, though, if you aren't up to speed on the latest FPS or RPG (especially if those acronyms mean nothing to you), we can help.

Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare
Platform: PS3, PS4, Windows, X360, Xbox One
The next iteration of the popular first-person shooter takes place in 2054 and features futuristic weapons, ammo, and armour. For ages 17-plus.

Destiny
Platform: PS3, PS4, X360, Xbox One
In this shooter, players become guardians of humanity, travelling to the moon, Venus, and Mars in an attempt to push back the forces of darkness. While the story mode can be played alone, Destiny is at its best when played with others, and your gamers will play for hours. For ages 10-plus.

FIFA 15
Platform: 3DS, PS3, PS4, PS Vita, Wii, Windows, X360, Xbox One
The best sports simulation available is for soccer. FIFA 15 lets footy fans play in quick matches, engage in complete seasons with existing teams or manage their own team of favourite players. It's great for all ages.

Skylanders: Trap Team
Platform: 3DS, iOS, PS3, PS4, Wii U, X360, Xbox One
Skylanders is an action-adventure franchise where gamers put real-life action figures into the virtual worlds in which they are playing. This time, villains can be trapped inside collectible crystals to fight for the good side. For ages 10-plus.

Disney Infinity 2.0
Platform: PS3, PS4, Wii U, Windows, X360, Xbox One
The next version of Disney's toy-to-game experience introduces new characters and more role-playing elements to the virtual toy box. Three playsets are available, each with its own unique game: Marvel Super Heroes; Spider-Man; and Guardians of the Galaxy. For ages 10-plus.

Super Smash Bros.
Platform: Wii U
The boisterous fighting game, featuring iconic Nintendo characters such as Mario, Peach, Samus (and 37 others), has seven modes of mayhem to keep players entertained, from stamina matches to custom battles to a party game. Up to eight players can brawl simultaneously and Nintendo's "amiibo" toys can become fighters in the game, too. For ages 10-plus.

Halo: The Master Chief Collection
Platform: Xbox One
This collection rounds up the four games — all campaign and multi-player levels — that feature Master Chief as the protagonist. Halo: Combat Evolved, released in 2002, and Halo 2 are included here in their remastered versions, so the graphics live up to the promise of the Xbox One. For ages 17-plus.

The Walking Dead: A Telltale Games Series
Platform: PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One
The first two seasons of this dark, complex adventure game are available on next-gen consoles for the first time. A young girl, Clementine, struggles to survive a zombie apocalypse. This game is inspired by the comic book, but tells a very different story; players witness the consequences of their decisions in a world where choices are often between bad and worse. For ages 17-plus.

34 shopping days left

A scene from Destiny, which is best when played with others.

Disney Infinity 2.0 introduces new characters and more role-playing.

FIFA 15 is great for all ages.

Mario, Peach, and others team up in Super Smash Bros.

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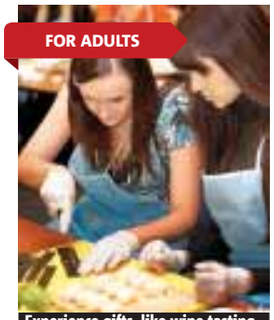
FOR CHILDREN

Don't mess with a good thing. Kids have been enjoying train sets for generations. SHUTTERSTOCK



FOR ADULTS

Experience gifts, like wine tasting or cooking classes, are perfect gifts for adults. SHUTTERSTOCK

Be unique, not cheap

Holiday shopping. Don't break the bank — or any hearts — with these gift ideas

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Is your budget feeling a wee bit snug this year? If you're tightening your purse strings on spending for this year's holiday season — but would still like to surprise friends and family members with great gifts — here are some unique ideas for presents less than $30 to put under the tree.

For children

Try giving the gift of experience (parents who declutter constantly will love it).

"For children, many local theatres and major theatres have performances and pantomimes around Christmas time," said Anne Keery, who runs the blog uniquegifter.com. "Also consider passes to museums or the zoo, play places, swimming passes, holiday train rides or an arts and crafts session." Keery added that you could even give a child a ride on a passenger ferry along with some spending money to use when they reach the destination. In Winnipeg, think a ride on the River Spirit Water Bus along the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Parents also appreciate durable gifts with long-lasting entertainment. "Trains are all the rage these days and Ikea tracks are compatible with most popular branded tracks," says Keery. "Lego is a timeless classic, as are books and art kits."

For teens

Ditto the experience idea. "You can opt for concert tickets, paintball, night skiing or tubing at local mountains, art classes, cooking classes, a mini-manicure or tickets to a non-major sporting event such as lacrosse or junior hockey," said Keery.

Accessories also make great gifts for under $30 — think a branded tuque, a cellphone case, conductive fingered gloves or even a new shirt.

"And in books, We Were Liars by E. Lockhart, The Impossible Knife of Memory by Laurie Halse Anderson, and Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith are all top reading picks for 2014," added Keery.

For adults

Kyle Prevost, who co-authors the personal finance blog youngandthrifty.ca, notes that his favourite gift ideas are "service gift cards" — or homemade gift cards offering up your own services (i.e. babysitting for a family with a newborn) or something along those lines.

"Who doesn't want a coupon for three free car washes and detail sessions that they can cash in throughout the year? How about a free carpet cleaning or five nights of babysitting services?" he said.

"If the job market hasn't been especially kind to you lately and you are blessed with more time than money, providing a much-needed helping hand can be one of the most thoughtful and treasured gifts you can give.

Also adults like to receive experience gifts, too, so things like tickets to beer and wine tasting events, yoga passes, cooking classes, and concert tickets also work well.

Get wrapped up in the holiday spirit

There's something about the thrill of waking up on Christmas morning to a mountain of gifts decorated with brightly coloured paper, festive ribbons and bows, inspired tags and unique accents.

Make sure your gifts don't get lost among the myriad of boxes stacked under the tree this year.

Let them stand out with truly original gift wrap, like these:

Remarkable wrapping

Start with a roll of blank kraft paper or a gift bag and freezer paper, which is made from a special plastic-coated material great for iron-on crafts.

First, cut holiday-themed stencils from the freezer paper.

Instead of making traditional reindeer, snowflake or snowman stencils, opt for something different that still has the essence of the holidays like holly leaves, pine cones or candles. Position the stencils on the kraft paper and use a dry iron to adhere them.

Then, spray the paper with spray paint. Use white for a subtle effect, or burgundy for a bit more drama. Allow the paint to dry before removing the stencils and revealing the end result.

Ribbons, bows and other embellishments

After wrapping the gift with your custom-made paper, turn your attention to the ribbons, bows and other accents that will make your package pop.

For a unique approach to these details, take a look around your home and repurpose old or unused items to accessorize. There is inspiration everywhere.

Funky-patterned napkins can be used inside boxes to cushion delicate items or in gift bags to replace tissue paper as decorative stuffing.

Use an unworn belt or shoelaces instead of ribbon to keep contents secure. Jazz up a lacklustre package with a glitzy brooch or an old ornament, transforming something ordinary into something extraordinary.

Gorgeous greetings

Once your gift is wrapped and beautified, it's time to think outside the box … specifically about the message you want to relay to the lucky recipient. Store-bought gift tags are convenient, but not very personal. Try your hand at some easy handcrafted and thoughtful greetings that speak volumes.

Spray paint wooden letters or holiday-themed shapes with chalkboard paint, or write your favourite yuletide message.

Not only will these make your gift seem extra special, but the recipient can reuse them again and again. You can also use leftover kraft paper to create cards.

Spray paint with a flashy colour like 'glitter blast diamond dust' or 'lucky green', and embellish with baker's twine, decorative buttons and winter-themed adornments like snowflakes.

Don't forget to write a personal message inside.

NEWS CANADA

Wrapping gifts is just as much fun as the gifts themselves! Well, maybe not, but it's still a big part of the holiday experience. NEWS CANADA

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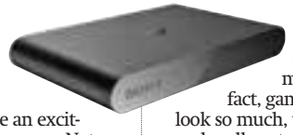
Press start: It's gaming season

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

The holidays are an exciting time to be a gamer. Not only do all the triple A titles hit stores, so do the limited edition consoles, along with a myriad of unique gaming accessories. Here are a few gift ideas for the ultimate gamer on your list.

Glacier White Playstation 4
$469.99

A striking new look for Sony's popular gaming console. This new version features a glossy white finish, a stark comparison to the original black model. In fact, gamers like the look so much, this unique console sells out as soon as it hits store shelves. Despite its new look, the console has all the same features of the original PS4, and can only be purchased as a bundle with the blockbuster title Destiny.



Xbox One Limited Edition Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare Bundle
$499.99

Microsoft is not only following in Sony's steps by releasing a white Xbox One this holiday season, it has also released a version Call of Duty fans will love. The new Call of Duty Advanced Warfare bundle features a custom designed console, with unique built-in sound effects. It is also the only Xbox One model to feature a 1TB internal hard drive, double the size of the original.

iPod Touch
$219 and up

Once used primarily for music, Apple's iPod Touch has quickly become a popular platform for gaming. This ultra-portable device features a beautiful four-inch retina display, snappy processor, and more than 250,000 game titles from which to choose. On top of this, the built-in dual cameras give this device many uses.

Playstation TV
$99.99

A tiny device with a lot of potential. Playstation TV, about the size of a smartphone, lets you watch movies, TV shows, and play original Playstation, Playstation 2 and Playstation 3 games on your TV, even if you don't own the consoles. A small cartridge slot lets PS Vita owners play the handheld games on the big screen, plus PS4 owners can stream games to a second television, meaning you'll never have to move your PS4 console around the house again. Important to note, not all Playstation titles work with Playstation TV at this time.

Nintendo 3DS XL
$199.99

While this popular handheld has been around for more than two years, Nintendo has decided to freshen it up with a stylish new look. Three new models will be on Canadian store shelves this holiday season, themed after Super Smash Bros, Persona Q, and the classic Nintendo Entertainment System. The look may be new but the hardware remains the same.

Hyperkin RetroN 5
$149.95

A console that lets you play classic games from the past. The RetroN 5 features cartridge slots that will work with Gameboy, Gameboy Colour, Gameboy Advance, Famicom, Super Famicom, Nintendo, Super Nintendo, Sega Genesis and Megadrive games. The console enhances the resolution of these classic titles and supports the ability to save your game at any point. Important to note: You need the original cartridges to play games.

Clockwise from bottom left, iPod Touch, $219 and up; Playstation TV $99.99; Nintendo 3DS XL, $199.99; Xbox One Limited Edition Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare Bundle $499.99; Hyperkin RetroN 5, $149.95 and Glacier White Playstation 4, $469.99

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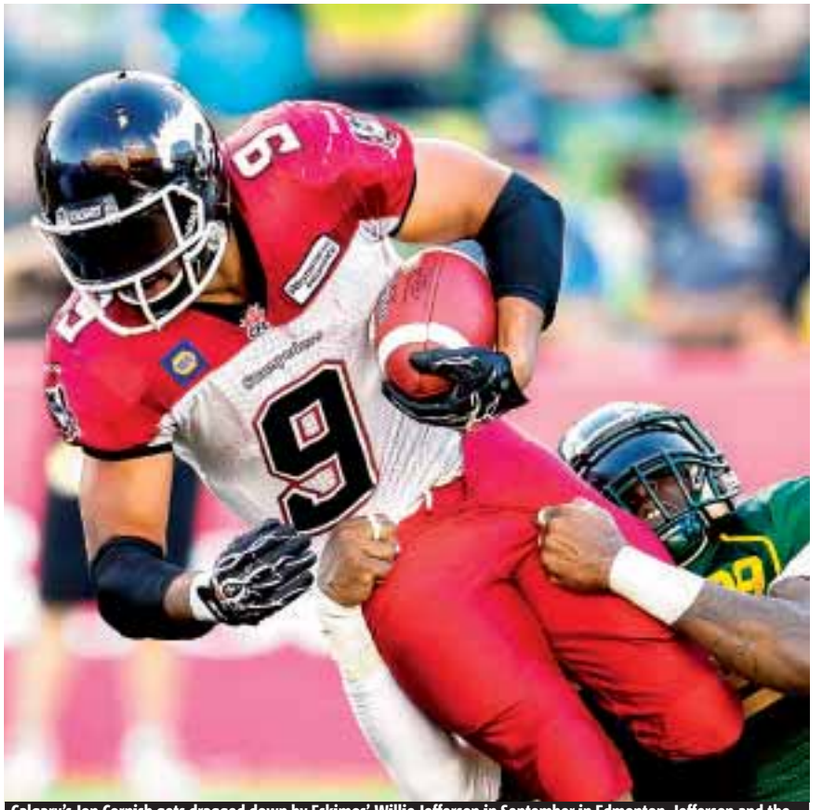


Calgary's Jon Cornish gets dragged down by Eskimos' Willie Jefferson in September in Edmonton. Jefferson and the entire Eskimos team have put a target on Cornish for the West final. BRENT JUST/GETTY IMAGES

Cornish: the man to be stopped at final

Over 1,000 yards. Calgary's running back the main target for Eskimos in West final

Stop Jon Cornish.

That will be both a primary focus of the Edmonton Eskimos on Sunday and also their biggest challenge in their attempt to beat the Calgary Stampeders in the CFL West final and earn a berth in the Grey Cup.

The Stampeders running back led the league in rushing with 1,082 yards while playing just nine games. Two of those games were against the Eskimos and he ran for 272 yards in back-to-back Calgary victories in September.

"We want to stop him because their offence does evolve around him most of the time," Edmonton's six-foot-six, 234-pound defensive end Willie Jefferson said after the team's closed practice Thursday.

But, he admitted, a "lot of things are easier said than done" and the Eskimos defence has to do a better job of tackling Cornish then they did in the previous two games.

Edmonton head coach Chris Jones — a former Calgary assistant — said stopping Cornish begins with his players staying in their proper gaps and lending support.

"He gets his pads turned north and south and we have to make sure, once he gets turned north and south you have to get a hand on him and get some help," Jones said. "He's a big back; he's going to break tackles so we have to do a great job of getting a lot of people there."

The Eskimos lost all three games to Calgary this season. In their back-to-back Labour Day losses Edmonton was without quarterback Mike Reilly and, as of Thursday, Jones wasn't prepared to declare him the starter.

Reilly missed the final regular-season game with a foot injury and came on in the second half of Edmonton's 18-10 semifinal win over Saskatchewan last weekend.

Jones said he "looked awfully good today."

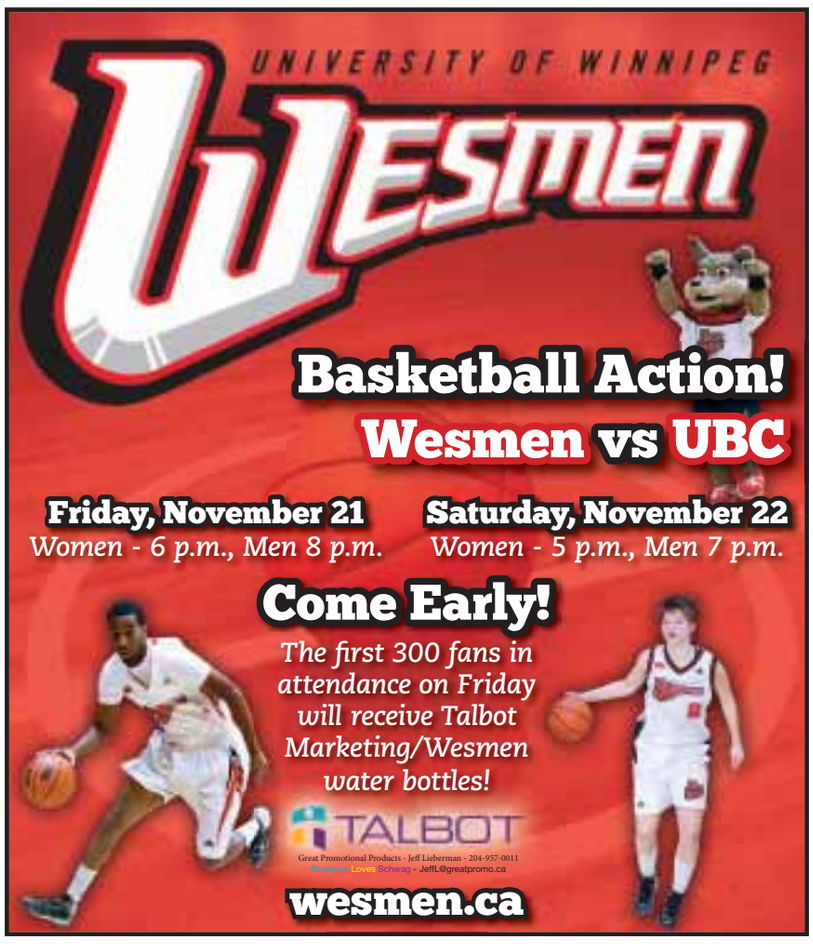
Linebacker Dexter McCoil, the West's outstanding rookie, missed Thursday's practice to attend to a family matter but Jones said he was expected back in time for Friday's practice.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Targeted

"We have to slow him down, make them try to find another way to win the game without him."

Eskimos' Willie Jefferson on Jon Cornish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NFL

Bills home game to be relocated following storm

A league spokesman says a severe lake-effect snowstorm hitting Buffalo has led the NFL to relocate the Bills home game against the New York Jets on Sunday.

Michael Signora said Thursday that the NFL has yet to determine where the game will be played.

The decision comes as the region — including the team's home in Orchard Park — has been blanketed by more than five feet of snow since Monday.

Snow continued to fall on Thursday, with projected accumulations ranging between one and three feet.

Earlier in the day, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said it would be impractical for the game to be played on schedule.

The snow has affected the Bills' preparations after the team cancelled practice for a second straight day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL. Players' union appeals suspension of Vikings star Peterson

The NFL players' union has appealed the league's suspension of Adrian Peterson.

In a letter to its player representatives and executive committee obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday, the NFLPA calls Commissioner Roger Goodell's punishment "unprecedented, arbitrary, and unlawful" and demands an independent, neutral arbitrator hears Peterson's case.

On Tuesday, Goodell suspended Peterson without pay for the rest of the season and told him he will not be considered for reinstatement before April 15 for his violation of the NFL personal conduct policy.

Peterson pleaded no contest Nov. 4 to misdemeanour reckless assault in Texas for injuries to his four-year-old son with a wooden switch.

The union says Peterson was told the games he missed on a special exempt list would count as time served toward a suspension. The 2012 NFL MVP played just one game for the Minnesota Vikings this season. Peterson has said he intended no harm to his son and that he only wanted to discipline him.

The 2012 NFL MVP was paid part of his $11.75 million during the leave.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adrian Peterson GETTY IMAGES

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Surround yourself with people you feel safe with. A social invitation may look exciting but if it is outside your comfort zone, give it a miss.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What someone tells you today may seem confusing but if you think about it, you will get the message. Some find it difficult to be straightforward.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
On the work front it would appear that someone has got into the habit of expecting you to do all the work. Maybe it's time to say "no".

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you are not 100 per cent certain what you want out of life, you will become the start of next week. Over the next 48 hours your head and your heart will be in perfect harmony.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It may annoy you that a friend keeps saying one thing while doing the opposite but don't let your anger show. Distance yourself.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You know what needs to be done to make your life more exciting but actually doing it is another thing. The Sun's change of signs will stir things up.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You appear to have missed a chance to improve your money situation. Be that as it may you were right not to take chances.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You have never been the sort to worry too much about what others think of you. You would, however, be wise to take in a loved one's criticisms today.

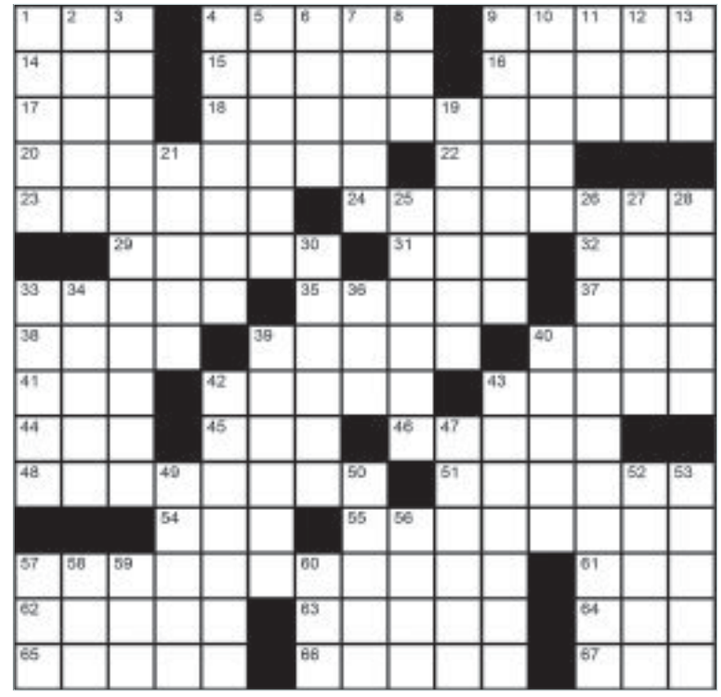
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
With mind planet Mercury linked to Mars today you will at long last be able to put a name to what has been worrying you for days, weeks, even months.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What takes place today will reassure you that things are not as bad as they seem and some of the more serious problems that have plagued you in recent weeks will no longer worry you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Keep telling yourself that you will succeed, no matter how difficult the task. The Sun's change of signs this weekend will make it easier to get on top of things without working yourself into the ground.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If there is something you want to say, now is the time. It does not matter how many people your words may offend, you have a duty to tell the truth as you see it .

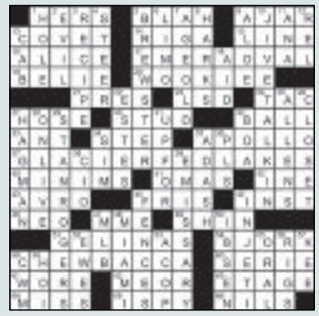
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Wine aperitif
4. Duck mascot insurance company
9. Makeup guest expert on "Cityline", Derek __
14. Beatles: "_ __ Mine"
15. Dutch cheese
16. Vary
17. Peacock network
18. Le Refus Global (Total Refusal): Quebec artists (spelling anglicized) of the 1940s such as Paul-Emile Borduas whose manifesto on culture is considered the origin of the Quiet Revolution
20. Glam rocker's makeup
22. Oz musical, with The
23. Silver-getter's placing
24. So Good __-__ Frozen Dessert (Canadian ice cream alternative)
29. Misplaces
31. Mr. Wheaton
32. '60s rocker's jacket
33. Proficient
35. Particular pasta
37. Hour div.
38. Calligraphy tips
39. Lt. Cmdr. Philip Francis __, Humphrey Bogart's role in "The Caine Mutiny" (1954)
40. Mr. Crosby
41. Mai __ (Cocktail)
42. More positive
43. Line: French
44. Auberge
45. Ashtray's li'l friend
46. Smile, bad guy style
48. One of a Flamenco dancer's clickers
51. Intertwine
54. Breakfast bit
55. Ontario town where Honda Civic and Honda CR-V vehicles are manufactured
57. High-speed event captured by a TV news chopper: 2 wds.
61. Wilson Pickett's "___ Midnight Mover"
62. Deport
63. This thingy:
64. "How Bizarre" group
65. __ Cup (Golf trophy)
66. Was inclined, like Pisa
67. Mesh

Down
1. Some cards
2. Diffuse
3. Non-garbage containers: 2 wds.
4. Versus
5. Farley Mowat book, The New __ Land
6. Certain chordophone
7. Decorate
8. Ms. Diaz, briefly
9. Lazed on the chair: 2 wds.
10. Audrey's "My Fair Lady" (1964) role
11. Fire dept. ranks
12. Gamble
13. Decade divs.
19. Canopy
21. Curvy patterns
25. Sports team VIPs
26. Citizenship and __ Canada
27. "The Office" star Mr. Wilson
28. Toronto street
30. __ Laurel (Plant that grows in BC)
33. Caper
34. Huntress of Roman myth
36. Wide shoe width
39. Ontario: Bay of __
40. Actress Jessica's
42. More rare
43. Not strict
47. British Columbia city
49. Pastoral-patterned fabric
50. Lake __ (American resort)
52. Like: French
53. Pass, as law
56. "Ooh __ __!"
57. MPH part
58. Prefix to 'moron'
59. Pot's top
60. Nero's 250

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	4	6	8	2	9	7	5
7	6	5	3	1	9	2	4	8
8	2	9	7	5	4	6	1	3
5	7	8	1	9	6	3	2	4
6	1	2	4	3	8	5	9	7
4	9	3	5	2	7	1	8	6
3	4	6	9	7	1	8	5	2
9	8	7	2	6	5	4	3	1
2	5	1	8	4	3	7	6	9

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